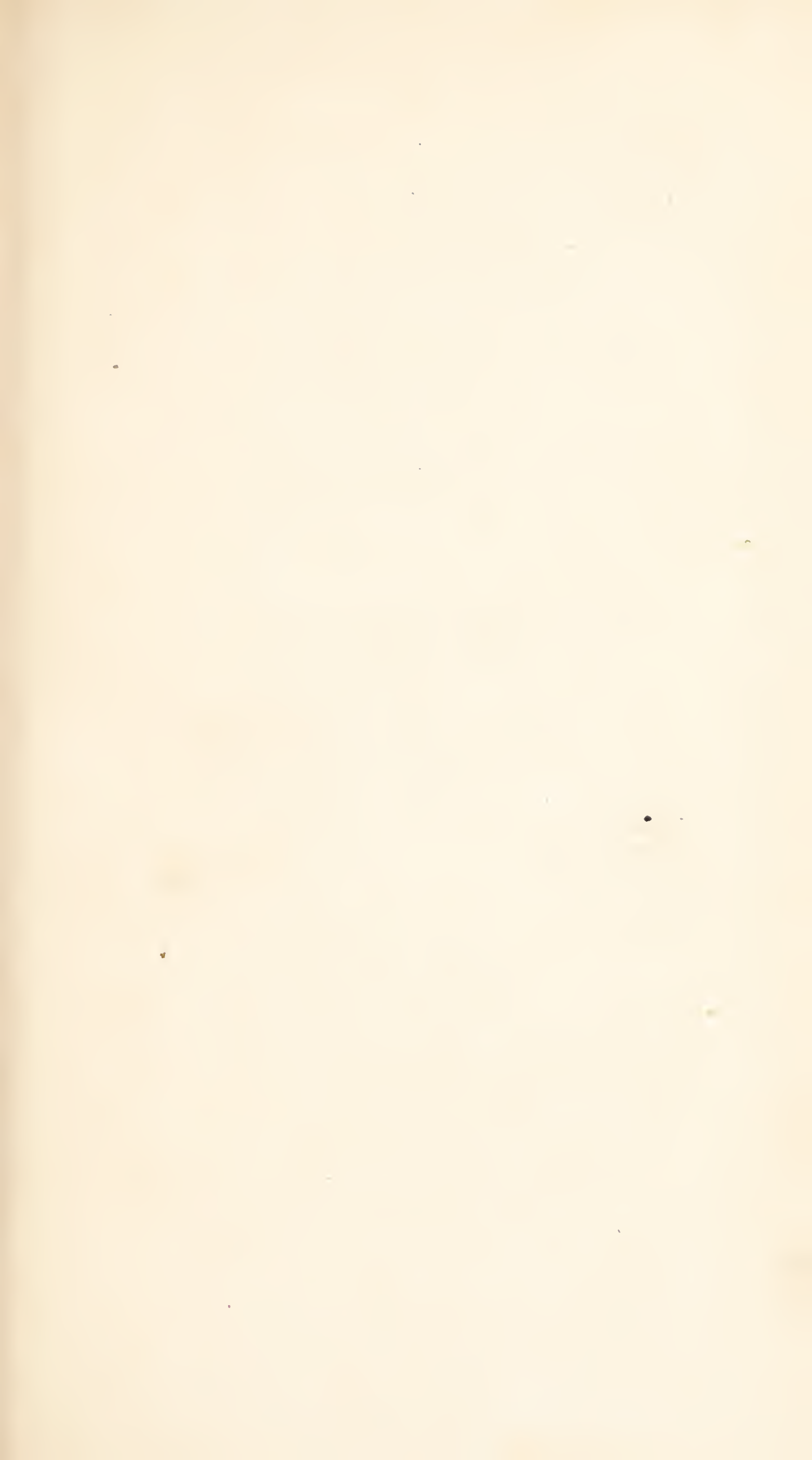



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A
PICTURE
OF
VALENCIA,

TAKEN ON THE SPOT;

Comprehending

A DESCRIPTION OF THAT PROVINCE, ITS INHABITANTS,
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS, PRODUCTIONS, COMMERCE,
MANUFACTURES, &c.

With

AN APPENDIX,

Containing

A GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL SURVEY
OF VALENCIA,

AND OF THE

Balearic and Pitheugian Islands;

Together with

REMARKS ON THE MOORS IN SPAIN.

BY CHRISTIAN AUGUSTUS FISCHER.

Translated from the German.

SECOND EDITION.

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ERRATA.

Page 75, line 19, for fire-men read five men.
 103, — 9, for important read unimportant.
 199, — 16, for However read How.

PREFACE.

IN submitting to the public this picture of Valencia, the Author is far from denying the value of the particulars for which he is indebted to the great work of the celebrated Cavanilles, the title of which is subjoined *. At the same time, in justice to himself, he cannot forbear making a few remarks which will not, he trusts, be ascribed to any improper motive.

Cavanilles has, indeed, collected a great number of botanical, topographical, and physical observations; but he has scarcely touched at all upon animated nature, which is certainly not less interesting. It cannot be denied, that all his remarks proclaim the man of science; but they are scattered without order through the whole work. He describes every thing, it is

* *Observaciones sobre la historia natural, geografia, agricultura, poblacion y frutos del regno de Valencia, por DON ANTONIO JOSEF CAVANILLES. De orden Superior. En Madrid en la imprente real, 1795—1797. In 2 vols. folio, with plates.*

PREFACE.

true, with the greatest minuteness; but he seems, in general, to be either by far too dry or too bombastic.

This being premised, it is easy to imagine, that the Author of this Picture found him of much less assistance than he expected. He was therefore obliged to supply all the details on men and manners from his own observations; he spared no pains to collect, to arrange, and to combine the scattered botanical, topographical, and physical remarks; and in this, as in every other portion of the work, he considered attention to the style and composition indispensably necessary.

How far he has succeeded in his endeavour to produce a pleasing, useful, and interesting work, he leaves to competent readers to decide; they will at least be able to judge what portion is his, and what he has borrowed from the Spanish original.

CHRISTIAN AUGUSTUS FISCHER

PICTURE
OF
VALENCIA.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTRY.

THE province, or, as it is denominated, the kingdom of Valencia is situated between $37^{\circ} 52'$ and $40^{\circ} 51'$ north latitude; and is bounded on the east by the Mediterranean Sea, on the north-east by Catalonia, on the west by New Castile, on the north-west by Arragon, and on the south-west by Murcia. It comprehends 838 square leagues (20 to a degree), and a population of 932,150 souls, which is daily increasing.

The greatest part of the province is mountainous, so that the plain country cannot be computed at more than 240 square leagues. The climate, soil, and fertility, are extremely various, according to the greater or less elevation of the valleys. The most level and fertile portion of

Valencia is the narrow tract which runs along the coast, about thirty leagues in length, and one and a half in breadth.

To the terrestrial paradise presented by this plain alone, the descriptions of the beauties of Valencia relate ; and to this enchanting valley belongs exclusively the following picture, which is by no means exaggerated—of a nature ever blooming and ever gay.

FIRST ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY.

No sooner have you ascended the last of the mountains that form the limits of Castile, than the road conducts by insensible degrees into a delicious plain. The air becomes milder, the country more romantic, and a landscape resembling Eden itself, irradiated by an enchanting sun, expands to the eye of the astonished traveller.

How magnificent, how delicious, how ravishing is this valley, intersected by numberless murmuring streams, and covered with thousands of neat habitations ! * What a luxuriant vegetation ! What charming variety ! The flowers of spring and the fruits of autumn are every

* They are called in this country *Alforins*.

where intermingled. All the beauties, all the productions of the south are collected in one spot ! 'Tis a prodigious garden decked with the splendors of etherial fertility.

But these superb fields, these rich meadows, surrounded with orange and lemon-trees, cedras, pomegranate, fig, and almond-trees ; these smiling groves of olives, algarrobos,* and palms ; these romantic hills, covered with the ruins of ancient Moorish grandeur ; these different movements of industry and rural activity, and the vast Mediterranean crowning with its azure billows, and glistening sails, the immeasurable expanse of the horizon—who but a Claude Lorrain could give a just idea of a scene so grand and so magnificent !

Evening arrives, and the sun with milder rays gently descends behind the distant mountains. A magic roseate light seems to tremble over the tranquil landscape, and the sea and the mountains glow with gold and crimson. The pure atmosphere is impregnated with the perfumes of orange-flowers ; the groves of acacia resound with the notes of the nightingale, and every feeling is absorbed by the sentiment of repose, of love, and of tranquil felicity.

* *Ceratonia siliqua*.

PICTURE OF VALENCIA.

CLIMATE.

The mere inspection of the map will enable you to form a just idea of the climate of this charming valley. Inclosed on three sides by mountains, and open only on the south east to the sea, it is consequently sheltered from all inclement winds. With such advantages, this beautiful tract of coast could not fail to enjoy a perpetual spring.

Those disagreeable vicissitudes of the seasons, that continual war of the elements, are here consequently unknown ; a constant serenity, and invariable mildness of the atmosphere, are the characteristics of the climate of Valencia.

To descend to particulars, it may be observed, that the average height of the barometer is 25 inches, and its greatest variation $13\frac{1}{2}$ lines, so that in forty-eight hours it scarcely amounts to one line and a quarter.

The thermometer stands in summer between 70 and 75, and in winter between 48 and 60 degrees. The heat is moderated by continual sea-breezes, and a temperature so low as 40 degrees is extremely rare. Thunder-storms, it is true, are frequent in summer ; but they seldom

last longer than a few peals. In winter hoar-frost and fog have been observed only twice in the course of five centuries.

The prevailing winds are those from the south-east, during which the sky is always clear and serene. It is only about the equinoxes that the west wind brings rain along with it; exclusive of those periods, there are scarcely eighteen or twenty rainy days throughout the year. In general the atmosphere is so pure and dry, that salt and sugar may lie for months in the open air, without contracting the least humidity.

Such is the climate of Valencia, where all the phenomena of nature are more genial and more beautiful, where all the organs of life have more energy and vigour. That everlasting uncertainty between health and sickness, together with the whole host of chronical diseases which attack the inhabitants of the north, is here absolutely unknown; and all the physical and moral powers seem to be doubled beneath this happy sky.

The fortunate Valencian is consequently a stranger to that oppression, that melancholy, that gloomy apathy of the north, which scarcely forsake us even in the finest days of summer. Here all nature displays the animating influence of a southern sun; here every thing breathes mirth and joy; here all the months, all the days

of the year, are devoted to an existence the most active and replete with enjoyments.

Happy climate of Valencia, where all ideas are more poetical, all pleasures more delicious, all the forms of life more beautiful; where the years of age are more cheerful, the days of suffering more supportable; and where even the approach of death is divested of the greatest portion of its terrors!

Happy the invalid whom fate permits to seek a refuge in this asylum! When the last moments of his life arrive, his end will here be more easy and less painful. Weaned from all the vain desires and passions of this tumultuous scene, he will await the most faithful friend of man with tranquil resignation, and fall asleep amid flowers and fragrant blossoms, full of the hope of awaking in the celestial region of perpetual spring.

POPULATION.

In the same space which scarcely contains twenty persons in the north, you find at least ten times that number in the south. The superior vigour of the senses, the warmer glow of life, a more abundant subsistence, all contribute in these happy countries to the propagation of our species.

We are acquainted with the climate of Valencia ; we know that it is favourable to population ; we shall not, therefore, be surprised to find that the number of its inhabitants has been continually increasing. It is true that in 1718, it had been reduced by wars, impolitic expulsions*, persecutions, and other causes, to 255,080 souls ; but in 1761 it had augmented to 604,612. Seven years afterwards (in 1768) there were found to be 716,886 ; nineteen years later (1787), 783,084, and in 1795, the number registered amounted to 932,150. The cities, towns, and villages are stated, according to an accurate enumeration, at 628.

The possibility of too great a population has been insisted on, but hitherto there seems to be very little foundation for these apprehensions. A considerable portion of the mountainous districts is still totally uncultivated ; agriculture is susceptible of great improvement, and the grateful soil of many yet unknown ameliorations ; besides which, the fisheries, the marine, manufactures, and commerce, still afford abundance of resources.

* By the expulsion of the *Moriscos*, that is, of the converted descendants of the ancient Moors, the province lost 200,000 of its most industrious inhabitants.

INHABITANTS.

A certain philosopher used to say : “ Tell me the latitude of a country, and I will give you the character of its inhabitants.” Though in numberless cases this assertion may appear rather extravagant, it is strictly true with respect to the Valencians. In whatever point of view, whether physical or moral, you consider them, you cannot fail to recognize the influence of their climate.

The Valencian seems to combine all the advantages of the inhabitants of the north with those of the natives of the south. He possesses the strength of the one and the susceptibility of the other ; he is hardy as the Norwegian and ardent as the Provençal.

The same observation applies also to the women. From the beauty of their complexion, their light hair, and charming embonpoint, they might be taken for daughters of the north ; but their graces, their sensibility, their vivacity, loudly proclaim them the natives of a southern land.

If we pass to the moral qualities, we shall find that in this particular also the influence of this fortunate climate is equally apparent. In

the men we discover that activity and vivacity. that vigour of health, and warm southern glow of life;—in the women that enchanting courtesy, and ardent temperament;—and in both sexes, that cheerful, good-natured vanity, and that unaffected gaiety which are the source of the sweetest social enjoyments. Among them you find none of the coldness of the phlegmatic Castilian, or of the deceit of the officious Andalusian; none of the cunning of the Biscayan, the rudeness of the Gallician, or the stiffness of the Catalan. In a word, if you wish to see the best tempered, the most amiable and the gayest people in Spain, go to Valencia.

THE CITY OF VALENCIA.

The city of Valencia lying in $17^{\circ} 21' 15''$ east longitude from Ferro, and in $39^{\circ} 28' 40''$ north latitude, is situated in a charming plain on the banks of the Guadalaviar, and is nearly of a circular form. It is surrounded, according to the ancient method of fortification, with walls and towers. It has four gates: *la puerta del Mar, de S. Vincente, de Quarte and de Serranos*, and into four quarters: *el quartel Campomanes, Patraix, Rusafa, and Benimamet*. Exclusive of

the suburbs which are of considerable extent, it is about half a league in circumference.

The population of Valencia is computed at between 105,000 and 106,000 souls. It is said to contain 5890 houses, 59 churches, of which 14 are parochial, 40 convents, and 10 hospitals.

The interior of Valencia still exhibits the exact appearance of an old Moorish city;—narrow, crooked, unpaved streets; small, low houses, but of great depth, with large courts and fine terraces:—in a word, the first view of this confused mass forcibly reminds the spectator of the ancient masters of Valencia.

The streets, which for these thirty years have been lighted by lamps, are, however, kept extremely clean;* and the houses are distinguished by external neatness and internal convenience.

This is particularly the case with respect to the new quarters, built within the last thirty or forty years, in various parts of the city. You there find many wide streets, with handsome, nay even magnificent edifices, which display a pro-

* The filth that is not carried off by sewers, is daily taken away by the country-people for manure. It is for this reason that the streets of Valencia are left unpaved; but in order that they may be kept level and in good condition, every peasant who comes for a load of manure is obliged to bring with him a load of gravel in exchange.

fusion of the finest marbles of Callosa, Naquera, Buixcarro, &c. I shall only mention as examples the streets of *San Vincente*, and *de los Caballeros*, and the squares of *San Domingo*, *del Carmen*, and *de las Barcas*, but, it must be observed, with the necessary exceptions.

With regard to the public buildings, the *Colegio del Patriarcha*, the Cathedral, the Church *de la Orden militar de Temple*, the *Aduana*, the House of the Consulate, the Academy of St. Charles, and the General Hospital are most deserving of the notice of a stranger.

But what gives Valencia a peculiar and inexpressible charm for the observer is the activity, the comparative opulence and gaiety which prevail among all classes of its inhabitants, and in every part of the city. Here you meet with no beggars, no loungers, no artisans in want of employment. Which way soever you look, you perceive nothing but serene, smiling countenances, industrious and happy mortals.

What with the noise of thousands of handicraftsmen, who all work in the open air; the rattling of silk-looms, accompanied with the songs of the weavers; the voices of numberless females crying orgeat, fruits and water; intermingled with the sound of the organs, triangles, and tambourines of a multitude of wandering Murcians—you see, you hear nothing but life,

joy, and pleasure expressed in a thousand forms and in a thousand tones. And how perfectly the appearance of all the surrounding objects harmonizes with this expression ! From the tops of the houses wave long stripes of coloured silk, and every shop is stocked with the richest stuffs.

On the elevated terraces, the laurel, the orange, and the lemon-tree, flourish in tranquil beauty, and the balconies display a variegated mixture of the most charming flowers. Here whole heaps of all the fruits of the south regale the smell with their fragrance, there the *Botel-larias*, adorned with garlands of palm and ivy invite the thirsty passenger.

Around you a motley crowd of men and women pass with light step and cheerful countenance through the cool, busy streets ; and many a significant look, many a secret squeeze of the hand, many a merry trick, remind you that you are among the gay, good-natured people of Valencia.

THE UNIVERSITY.*

The University was founded in the year 1411. Since its thorough reformation in 1787, it may

* The University must not be confounded with the Academy of *San Carlos*, opened in 1773 for painting, sculpture, and architecture, nor with the *Seminario de Nobles*, instituted in 1779.

be said to be the first in Spain, especially as far as relates to the study of medicine.

The total number of professors is seventy-eight. Of these there are eleven for divinity, twelve for jurisprudence, eighteen for physic, nine for philosophy, and six for the languages.

The time for giving lectures is from the 11th of October to the 31st of May; the summer months being occupied with examinations, festivals, and vacations. The students are divided into classes, and annually rise in proportion to their progress.

The revenues of the University seem considerable for Valencia. The salaries of the professors are fixed at from fifty to one hundred and thirty pounds sterling per annum. The library does not contain above fifteen thousand volumes, but includes the valuable collections of the late Franc. Perez Bayer, and the best recent publications, especially on medical subjects.* It is open four hours every day, and is much frequented by the students.

* The smallness of this library is compensated in some measure by that in the archiepiscopal palace, which comprehends fifty thousand volumes. It contains every Spanish publication that has appeared since 1763, and a great number of foreign works on history and geography. The cabinet of antiques and medals annexed to it is not considerable. This library is open six hours every day, and in beauty of situation it surpasses the royal library at Madrid.

The university of Valencia has ever been distinguished for the great number of celebrated men it has produced. Without going back to remote periods for a Stoani, Vives, Gelida, Nunnez, Perez, Perpinnan, Perera, Trilles, Mariner, &c. the names of Jorge Juan, Gregorio Mayans, Francisco Perez Bayer, and Juan Bautisto Munnoz, are known and revered by every friend of literature and science.

HOUSES.

The native of the south, who can live the whole year round without shelter, beneath his genial sky, seldom bestows much pains or expence on his habitation. The Valencians, however, are distinguished in this particular from all their southern neighbours, by a laudable love of order and cleanliness.

The internal arrangement of the houses of Valencia is extremely commodious. The apartments are judiciously distributed, and generally connected by a gallery. Every house has its own water, which is commonly brought into the kitchen; and from each the soil is conveyed by subterraneous pipes into the common sewers. The walls and floors are almost universally covered with tiles of earthen-ware, or polished

bricks, so that with only a moderate attention to cleanliness, they may be kept perfectly free from vermin.

The roofs are flat, and are often surmounted with small turrets, which are commonly used for pigeon-cotes; but on many terraces are made elegant little gardens, where you may sleep during eight or nine months of the year in the open air without detriment. This applies also to the balconies, which are in a manner entirely transformed into parterres of flowers.

With respect to the articles of furniture in use here, they are distinguished by their lightness and the elegance of their forms. Almost all of them are made of the wood of the palm, the aloe, the oleander, and mulberry-tree, of cork and of the esparto. The tables, chairs, beds, chests, and nearly all the household utensils, are therefore objects of curiosity to the stranger.

Nothing, however, will give him greater pleasure than the charming beds made of the fibres of the esparto and aloe, whose elasticity and softness are so favourable to repose.

MICALET.

This name, derived from that of St. Michael, is given to the octagon steeple of the cathedral

which is 150 feet in height. As it is situated in the centre of the whole *huerta* of Valencia, it commands a magnificent and enchanting view. From this elevation the eye embraces the busy city, the smiling country around it, the pellucid canals, the glistening Albufera, the lofty mountains clothed with verdure, and the unbounded expanse of the azure sea—together forming a scene so animated, so beautiful, and so magnificent as to baffle description.

From the heights of Torrent, about a league and a half from the city, you may enjoy a prospect still more extensive. Hither, while the sun sheds his departing rays, the painter should repair to delineate this whole charming valley, with all its variegated tints, and all its enchanting points of view. What warmth! What a sky! What foliage! Where is the Claude Lorrain who is destined to pourtray this inimitable spectacle?

Every landscape makes a peculiar impression upon the beholder. We admire what is grand, sublime, and majestic: we love only what is soft, and beautiful, and mild. Admiration is an impression of the moment, but love exists for eternity.

PRICE OF PROVISIONS.

Provisions are abundant in Valencia, as might naturally be expected from the climate and the state of agriculture: nay, I question whether there is any country where you may live at a cheaper rate.

To begin with bread: a pound of excellent wheaten bread is sold for three *quartos* and a half*. If Valencia was not obliged to procure annually great quantities of wheat from La Mancha and the Levant, to supply its deficiency in that article, the price of bread would certainly be one-third lower.

The best beef is sold for seven *quartos* (two-pence) a pound, and the other kinds of meat in proportion. A fowl costs sixteen *quartos* (about four-pence halfpenny), a pair of pigeons, from three to four *quartos*; and a dish of fish, for two or three persons, may be had for four-pence.

Vegetables, fruit, and the like, are in general extremely cheap. For a penny you may buy as much garden-stuff as will suffice three or four persons for a meal. A water-melon, of the

* About a penny, English money.

largest size, costs three-pence, and a couple of pomegranates, not quite a penny. For a penny you may purchase two large bunches of grapes, and a whole hatful of figs for half that price. Oranges, lemons, almonds, strawberries, and other fruits, are sold equally cheap.

The various articles of food in this country are extremely easy of digestion; and the vegetables, in particular, have very little substance. Let a person eat ever so hearty, he has no occasion to apprehend the slightest inconvenience. The pure elastic air and the wine of Alicante, which is an excellent stomachic, may, however, probably contribute to produce this effect.

There is scarcely any commodity but what may be had at a price equally reasonable. For three or four reals a day, you may have a room neatly furnished, with an alcove and attendance. A silk cloak, which it is the fashion to wear here, costs from 28s. to 30s.; and a fine cotton waistcoat, with breeches and a silk scarf, from 14s. to 18s. A pair of silk stockings may be bought for 5s. 6d.; and fine linen is the only article of dress that can be called dear.

With respect to other things necessary for housekeeping, such as oil, wine, coffee, &c. they are all in general very cheap. For three half-pence you have as much oil as you can use at a meal; and a bottle of excellent wine costs less

than four-pence. A pound of coffee may be bought in time of peace for eight-pence, good sugar for nine or ten, and a pound of Caraccas chocolate for between fifteen and eighteen-pence. The only articles which are comparatively dear, are wood and coal; nevertheless, the annual expence of a small family on that account does not exceed thirty-five or forty shillings.

These facts sufficiently demonstrate how cheap it is to live in Valencia. Fifty or sixty pounds sterling would be a handsome income for an individual. If we compare this with the sum that would be required at Hieres, Nice, and Montpellier, we shall find that Valencia is infinitely preferable in this respect.

PAINTINGS.

Valencia, it is well known, has produced a great number of excellent painters, many of whose best pieces, as well as those of some other Spanish masters, still adorn its capital.

In the church of the *Colegio del Patriarca*, for example, are shewn the Last Supper and the Ordination, by St. Vincent Ferrer, and also another Last Supper and a Nativity of Christ, by Martin de Vos.

In the Cathedral are to be seen the following pieces:—The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan, and the Saviour holding the host, by Juan de Joanes; the Martyrdom of St. Sebastian, by Pedro Orenti; Christ giving the Keys to St. Peter, and a Conception, by Antonio Palomino; a great number of other subjects from the life of our Saviour and of the Blessed Virgin, on the doors of the high altar, by Pablo di Aregio and Francisco Neapoli, disciples of Leonardo da Vinci, &c.*

In the church of *Nuestra Senora de los Desamparados*, may be mentioned the Holy Trinity, painted on the ceiling by Antonio Palomino.

In the church of *San Juan del Mercado*, are several subjects from the life of St. John by the same artist, and a Last Supper by Esteban Marc.

The church of *San Nicolas* contains the following pieces:—A Last Supper by Joanes, and various subjects from sacred history, which are probably by the same master.

In the church of *los Carmelitas Calzados*, are eight subjects from the lives of various saints of that order, by Geronymo Espinosa; our Saviour, by Joanes; San Rogue, by Pedro

* From the archives it appears that the last-mentioned pictures were purchased in 1506 for 3000 ducats.

Orenti; and several altar-pieces by Ribalta and Esteban Marc.

In the church *de la Orden militar del Temple*, a Last Supper, and Jesus carrying the Cross, by Joanes.

In the college of *San Thomas de Villanueva*, the saint of the same name by Ribalta.

In the church of the *Minims* or of *St. Sebastian*, the saint of that name, and two subjects from his life, by Joanes.

In the convent of the *Capuchins*, at the end of the Calle Alboraya, St. Francis on his sick-bed, by Ribalta.

In the convent of *Religiosas Descalzos de San Francisco*, out of the town, the Baptism of Christ by Alfonso Cano.

Valencia seems to have been destined by nature to be the native country of genius. Here then, or not at all, will some time or other be formed a Spanish school, that will perhaps surpass even its great predecessors. Meanwhile an academy for painting and the sister arts, instituted here about thirty-five years ago, encourages the most flattering hopes of future excellence.*

* This is the *Academia de San Carlos*, which has been noticed above.

SERENOS.

This appellation is here given to the watchmen, who likewise announce the weather. They derive their name from the word *sereno* (clear, serene), because that is their ordinary cry almost the whole year round, in this delicious climate. They also form a distinct military corps, as at Hamburg, and are besides engaged in all sorts of nocturnal employments.

It cannot but appear surprising, that in a city like Valencia, there was not a single *sereno* till the year 1777. It is to the late Don Joachim Fos, known by his travels and his improvements in manufactures, that this useful institution owes its origin. He established the corps of *serenos* when he was *alcalde mayor* of Valencia, and thus gave a tolerable livelihood to a number of decayed people.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL.

It is situated without the city, in one of the finest quarters of Valencia. It is composed of three principal edifices of considerable extent,

and in the excellence of its regulations it surpasses the great hospital at Madrid.

Each patient has a separate alcove, and a particular hall or ward is set apart for each disease. The sick are visited at least thrice a day by the physician, and the most expensive medicines are administered, when the nature of the case requires them.

Agreeably to an ancient grant, the archbishop daily supplies the hospital with a certain quantity of ice for lemonade. This institution throughout is a pattern of cleanliness—an advantage which may be procured in this climate with much less difficulty than perhaps in any other.

The second wing of this hospital is devoted to the purposes of a receptacle for foundlings. The fault probably lies in the nature of these institutions, if this is still susceptible of many improvements. The larger children are, however, divided from the small; and as to the latter, the infants at the breast are separated from such as are above a year old; and many excellent regulations have been adopted with regard to the instruction of the older classes.

The third wing of this prodigious building is used as a hospital for lunatics. The manner in which it is conducted is truly exemplary; and the patients are divided into classes accord-

ing to their different degrees of insanity. Those who are quite outrageous are confined in small cells six feet long, nearly the same in breadth, and nine feet high. They are hung with thick mats of esparto, and the floors are provided with several grates to carry off impurities.

For the rest we are assured that the treatment of these unfortunate people is extremely liberal and enlightened. This indeed is no more than what might be expected, since the general hospital is assigned to the university as a clinical institution.*

AGRICULTURE IN GENERAL.

Agriculture, that sublime theory of an artificial vegetable creation, presents upon the whole a great number of poetic ideas. Amidst this ever blooming nature, and on this ever grateful soil, how could they fail to be so much the more favourable to inspiration? We have already treated of the climate and beauties of Valencia; the soil and its cultivation form the subject of the present article.

* This hospital must not be confounded with the *Hospicio*, or House of Industry, which is likewise regulated on an excellent plan, and the inmates of which are in general employed for the manufactures.

With respect to the soil, a great difference is made between *red* and *white* earth. The red, *roxelet*, is found only in part of the district of Olivo, as far as Castello della Plana, and then northward in the districts of Montesa; but the white, *albaris*, is met with in all the rest of the province.

The red earth is invariably argillaceous, but it is always more or less mixed with sand, which renders its colour either lighter or darker. In the vicinity of mountains it is always more coarse, dry, and compact; but yet vines, algarobos, and figs, in particular, thrive well in it. In the plains it is softer and intermingled with less sand; it contains more calcareous particles, and the fermentation produced by the addition of acid, is stronger and more speedy: when well manured and watered, it gradually becomes blacker, and at length forms excellent mould.

The white earth is in general mixed with many calcareous particles; it is exceedingly compact, and unless sufficiently watered, very unfavourable to vegetation. But when it is well manured and watered, it forms an excellent soil, and is infinitely preferable to the red earth.*

* If a heap of this white earth is left for ten or twelve months in the open air, it may then be entirely reduced to powder, and used with great advantage for improving sandy soils,

With respect to the cultivation of the lands in general, they are divided into watered and unwatered, into *huertas* and *secanos*. In the former, which are always situated in plains, recourse is had to artificial irrigation; the latter, being on the declivities of mountains, receive no humidity but the dew and rain. The scarcity of springs, especially in the northern mountains, and the great expence of irrigation, seems to have produced this difference, which is obvious at the first view.

Look only, for example, at the *huertas* of Valencia, Elche, Gandia, and along the whole coast of the south-eastern part of the province in general. What a vigorous, rich, and luxuriant vegetation! Where are the meadows which may be mown like these every week during eight months of the year; where the mulberry-trees three or four times annually renew their leaves; where the same soil produces corn, pulse, fruits, and vegetables in uninterrupted succession, and rewards the toil of the husbandman with crops that yield forty, fifty, nay even one hundred fold!

The farmer of this country, it is true, is obliged to labour the whole year through without intermission. Every month brings with it new seed-times and new harvests; each week, nay almost each day, is devoted to a different occupation.

How indeed could it be otherwise, since every field must be ploughed nine or ten times, since each kind of seed must be sown three or four times, and each season is distinguished by four or five different crops? Hence the huertas are never without labourers, and in every hour of the day, and every week in the year, all the various operations of agriculture may here be seen going forward at once.

But what most exercises the ingenuity of the husbandman, as well as constitutes the most laborious part of his employment, is the irrigation of the huertas. How many thousands of canals to convey to them the water of a neighbouring river! How many hills dug through in quest of springs! How many expensive cisterns, aqueducts, and draw-wells, to furnish those supplies which are indispensably necessary for the fertility of his fields! 'Tis only by means of this incessant activity that the farmer can convert the barren heath into luxuriant corn-fields, and the wildest country into a terrestrial paradise.*

* As, for instance, at Vinaroz, Benicarlo, &c. where sixty or seventy years ago nothing was to be seen but a sandy waste. The charming climate certainly contributes not a little to this effect. The smallest shoots in four or five years have all the appearance of trees at least fifteen years old, and yield abundance of the finest fruit.

Agriculture might, nevertheless, be much more flourishing in this province. Many superior methods, many more productive processes, are here totally unknown. The olives, for instance, in many districts, are far from attaining their proper size, merely on account of the neglect of the trees. The same observation applies to the algarrobas and the pomegranates; the system adopted in the cultivation of them in many parts of the country being extremely defective.

All these faults, however, might soon be corrected by means of proper instruction, if certain measures of government were not so prejudicial to the interests of agriculture. The principal of these is the oppressive privilege given to the tribunal of the marine relative to the planting of timber for ship-building.

Were the superintendence of this department assigned to men who possess a practical knowledge of the subject, such an institution would by no means be detrimental to agriculture. But from the ignorance of those in whose hands it is entrusted, and what is still worse, through the wanton injustice of their underlings; how many pieces of excellent land and fertile hills are sacrificed in plantations of oaks and pines, which, so far from thriving, perish annually by hundreds!

It is too obvious to be denied that the Spaniards have not the smallest idea of the cultivation of forest-trees. Add to this the feudal rights, which are still exceedingly oppressive, and it will be apparent, that, notwithstanding the delicious climate, it is only by indefatigable industry that the farmer can acquire a decent competence.

One thing, however, has been done for his accommodation, which we must not omit to notice.—This is the establishment of a fund in the capital, where, in case of necessity, he may obtain a loan without interest for the purchase of seed. This institution was founded by a deceased archbishop, who, with the approbation of the king, devoted to this useful purpose the *espolios* and *vacantes*, that is, the property left by the bishops, and the revenues of the vacant benefices in the whole province.

PRINTING-OFFICES.

Valencia contains several printing-offices, among which Montfort's might vie, in the beauty of its productions,* with those of Ibarra

* For instance, the magnificent edition of Mariana's *Historia general de Espana, ilustrada de tablas cronologi-*

and Sanchez, Bodoni and Didot. To this office belongs also a shop for the sale of books, where may be found a good assortment of Spanish works, both old and new. Montfort is likewise the printer of the newspaper entitled *Diario de Valencia*, in which the shipping-lists and other commercial intelligence are commonly inserted.

As to the history of printing in Valencia, it appears that this art was known here at an earlier period than at Madrid. The oldest work printed at Madrid is of the year 1499; Valencia, on the other hand, is known to have produced a Sallust in 1475, and also in the same year, a small Latin vocabulary with the short title of *Comprehensorium*.

REAL SOCIEDAD ECONOMICA.

This is one of the numerous patriotic societies in Spain, whose beneficial effects are incontestable.* It has a considerable fund, possesses a select library on the subject of rural economy,

cas, notas, y observaciones criticas, par D. Vicente Noguera y Ramon, 1784. In three volumes 4to.—Fr. P. Bayer de Nummis Hebræo. Samarit. Vindic. 1791, small folio, &c.

* The total number in all the provinces of Spain amounts to sixty-two.

and annually offers a number of prizes and rewards. Their distribution commonly takes place at the anniversary meeting of the society, which is always held on the 9th of December, in honour of the queen's birth-day.

The following premiums were proposed by this society for the year 1803:—

Four hundred reals for the best treatise on the cultivation of olives, and on the method used at Aix for extracting their oil.—Three hundred reals for the farmer who should have raised the greatest quantity of potatoes—a very important object considering the insufficiency of the corn grown in the province for its consumption.—A gold medal, of the value of three hundred reals, for the best treatise on the coal-mines which exist in Valencia, together with observations on the manner of working them.—A medal, of the like value, for the most complete list, historical and critical, of all the works now extant relative to the commerce, agriculture, manufactures, &c. of Valencia.

From these particulars, it is evident that enlightened patriots are not wanting in Valencia. It is therefore to be hoped, that by the united efforts of so many genuine friends of their country, a spirit of industry and activity may be awakened, notwithstanding all the endeavours of a despotic clergy to prevent it.

WALKS & OTHER AMUSEMENTS.

Though the whole enchanting country round Valencia has the appearance of one immense garden, yet, for the sake of the future traveller, I must not omit mentioning the walks, properly so called, the Alameda, on the other side of the river, and the alleys of Mont Olivete, Brio, &c.

I doubt if all Europe can produce a promenade superior in beauty to the Alameda. What magnificent alleys!—what admirable vegetation!—what a refreshing coolness, even in the hottest days of August! Here the elm, the cypress, the plane-tree, the orange, the pomegranate, the cinnamon,* and mastic-tree,† may be seen growing beside each other in all the luxuriance of a southern clime; while between them a number of tall, shady, South American trees, as the chirimoyo,‡ the aguacete,§ the sassafras, || and the dragon-tree,¶ flourish in all the beauty of their native land.

* *Laurus cinnamomum*.

† *Schinus molle*, which here grows to a lofty, spreading tree.

‡ *Annona squamosa*.

§ *Laurus Persea*.

|| *Laurus Sassafras*.

¶ *Yucca Draconis*.

This magnificent Alameda is almost every afternoon and evening the rendezvous of all the people of fashion in Valencia. The principal alley, which is kept watered, is for carriages, and the four smaller collateral ones, intersected by canals bordered with flowers, are for pedestrians. In every part there are benches, arbours, and green-plots; and in short, the greatest pains have been taken to provide in every possible way for the pleasure and accommodation of the public.

The stranger, who for the first time enters this Alameda, will assuredly imagine himself to be all at once transported into the groves of Paphos. From all sides are wafted the perfumes of the rose, the orange, and the narcissus; every thicket resounds with vocal and instrumental music; from all quarters — O delicious, O celestial evenings, when all the senses revel in delight, and the benign goddess sees none but happy mortals around her!

From the Alameda, a charming road, bordered with beautiful country-houses and noble alleys, leads almost in a direct line to the village and port of Grao: it is not, at most, above half an hour's walk; and by the way you observe a multitude of mimosæ, palms, sodom-apples, &c. mingling their superb foliage with that of a thousand other shrubs and trees.

Grao is much frequented on account of its situation on the sea, and its marine-baths. Several hundreds of tartans and calesins sometimes arrive there on one day; nay, many families, and even whole parties, pass months together in their country-houses at that place.*

At such times Grao exhibits much the same kind of scene as other bathing-places—a great deal of luxury, many amusements, and much gallantry. Parties from this place likewise make frequent excursions upon the sea, along its enchanting coast.

Benimamet and Burjasot are similar places of amusement, which are frequented during the summer, and where good, or at least gay company is always to be met with. In autumn Rusafa is the fashionable place of resort, where the sportsmen form brilliant aquatic shooting-parties on the Albufera and Dehesa. Upon the whole, social life experiences no want of variety and diversions at Valencia. There are numerous festivals, religious and political; such as those of San Juan, San Vicente, San Nicolas, Maestranza, and others; a multitude of public and private theatres; and as many concerts,

* Strangers who chuse to do the same may find good accommodation at the inns, and in several neat contiguous houses.

balls, rifrescos, and tertullas, as a stranger can possibly desire.

Besides this, the *fondas* and the *neverias*, the *botellarias* and coffee-houses of no Spanish town are so cleanly and so cheerful as those of Valencia. In a word, in this enchanting country, and among this gay people, all imaginable facilities are afforded for enjoyments at once the most refined and the most free.

ALBUFERA.

The Albufera* is an inlet separated by a narrow neck of land from the sea, but with which it is connected by means of a small channel. It runs from north to south, extending from a little below the city to Cullera, and being about three leagues in length and one in breadth.

In consequence of its situation, which is below the level of the sea, a great number of canals, rivulets, and streams empty themselves into it: so that the adjacent district is often

* Though this Arabic term is used to denote any other gulph or inlet; as, for instance, Albufera de Oropesa, de Alicante, &c. yet in most cases it seems to be applied exclusively to the Albufera of Valencia.

overflowed in winter to the distance of several leagues. The Albufera has, however, no other mo on than what is communicated by the introduction or discharge of water by means of the sluice constructed in the channel.

Above the Albufera extends the Ribera, of a semicircular form, and entirely occupied with rice-fields ; below it, along the sea-coast, runs a narrow sand-bank, called Dehesa, which is covered with pines, willows, mastic and turpentine trees, but which nearer to the city, and particularly in the vicinity of Rusafa, has been converted into excellent garden-ground.

About thirty years ago, a plan was formed for rendering the Albufera navigable. It was proposed to carry a canal into the heart of the country, and likewise to enlarge the port of Cullera, at the southern extremity of the Albufera. But whether it was owing to the great expence which would have been incurred, or to the fear of injuring the capital, I know not ; the plan was relinquished, and the improvement of the port of Valencia itself became an object of attention.

If, however, the Albufera is unserviceable for navigation, still it procures the inhabitants of Valencia many other advantages. It supplies them, for instance, with abundance of ex-

cellent fish, some of which are of astonishing magnitude.

Many parts of it, being covered with reeds, afford a retreat to prodigious multitudes of water-fowl. The aquatic parties formed from time to time, to enjoy the sport of shooting these birds, are very brilliant. Three hundred boats may often be seen assembled on these occasions*, which are days of general festivity for all Valencia, especially if to the other diversions is added the hunting of rabbits or shooting of partridges, which abound in the Dehesa.

LA REAL MAESTRANZA.

This is the name of four companies of knights, whose origin is lost in the obscurity of the middle ages, and whose highly important object was the defence of the immaculate conception, and the improvement of the breed of horses. They are divided among four cities, of which Valencia is the third in rank†.

These privileged *Cuerpos de Real Maestranza*, as they entitle themselves, are accustomed to

* When all the birds are sprung, they have the appearance of a thick black cloud before the sun. They are generally killed by throwing grenadoes among them.

† The others are Granada, Seville, and Ronda.

assemble only on extraordinary occasions, such as the accession of a new sovereign to the throne, the birthdays of the royal family, or the conclusion of peace. They then go in brilliant procession, and hold a superb tournament, the following description of which will probably not be read without pleasure.

The Plaza de San Domingo is surrounded for this purpose with an inclosure, on one side of which is erected a magnificent canopy, and on the other a large amphitheatre. Under the canopy are placed the portraits of the king and queen, which, till the commencement of the ceremony, are concealed by a long curtain of green silk; and the amphitheatre contains a spacious orchestra. The inclosed space is carefully strewed with fine sand; and without the lists, a small elevation is formed for spectators of the lower classes.

It is now the hour of four in the afternoon. The *Caballeros Maestranter* are assembled at the house of their colonel, and advance in the best order along the principal street. Their splendid green uniforms, glistening with gold, and their handsome Andalusian horses, form an imposing spectacle. The knights, commonly forty or fifty in number, preceded by a numerous band of music, slowly approach the entrance of the lists.

They advance ; they are opposite the canopy ; at that moment the music of the grand orchestra in the amphitheatre strikes up, and suddenly the curtain before the splendid canopy rises. The portraits of the sovereign and his queen appear ; the knights salute them with their swords, and from all quarters resound the clapping of hands and the loudest acclamations. The knights now ride in a slow trot round the place, saluting the ladies ; they divide themselves into different bodies, and at length commence their evolutions.

These consist in a kind of military ballet, in a sort of skirmishing dance, in which the performers are required to gallop in time, and to preserve the strictest order in the execution of the extremely complicated figures. Even those who have been in the habit of seeing similar performances at Astley's and other places will not fail to be pleased with the Caballeros Maestranteras, and in particular to admire the beauty of their steeds.

This ballet being over, the tilting with lances then begins. For this purpose, a figure of Minerva is placed near the amphitheatre : from her hand hangs a ribband, to which is suspended an eagle, holding a nosegay of flowers in his beak. At this the knights alternately take aim, till each of them has cut the rib-

band with the point of his lance. This they commonly do at the first attempt; the dexterity they display in the exercise being truly admirable.

But who can describe the interest, the enthusiasm with which the spectators behold the ceremonies of the Maestranza? Every eye is fixed on the mark—all hearts are divided between the knights. The people shout—they dispute—they lay prodigious wagers; and the ladies, in particular, are either trembling with anxiety, or transported with enthusiasm and joy.

In this manner the tournament lasts perhaps several hours, till each of the knights has won a second prize. Again they draw up in parade, salute as before, ride once more round the place, and then slowly return in the same order as they came. At night there is commonly a ball and *rifresco* at the residence of the captain-general or intendant, where each knight lays the prizes he has gained at the feet of his lady; till at length the festival generally concludes about midnight with magnificent fire-works.

IRRIGATION.

It has already been observed that the Valencians divide their lands into watered and un-

watered, into *huertas* and *secanos*, and that the former are by far the most numerous. With infinite labour and great expence, they employ the currents of large rivers, and the waters of all the smaller streams, in the purposes of irrigation.

Out of the thirty-five rivers, large and small, which the Spanish geographers reckon up in Valencia, it is particularly to the Xucro or Sucro, and the Turia or Guadalaviar, that a considerable portion of this beautiful tract of coast is principally indebted for its fertility.

The Xucro, or Sucro, the most considerable of them all, rises in Castile, and enters Valencia on the north-west. It then takes an easterly direction, traverses the whole breadth of the province, and after receiving a great number of rivulets and smaller streams, discharges itself into the sea at Cullera.

In its course it is employed in the irrigation of the whole country, and supplies, in particular, a principal canal, called *Acequia del Rey*,* together with its numberless ramifications and subordinate canals.

The Turia, or Guadalaviar, rises in Arragon,

* This canal, constructed by James the Conqueror (1276), commences near Antella, and runs into the *Albufera de Valencia*.

and likewise enters Valencia on the north-west. It then turns towards the south-east, runs through the province from one extremity to the other, and finally falls into the sea near Valencia.

In this manner it waters the whole tract from Ademutz to Ribaraya, and is employed with great advantage for that purpose in the *Huerta de Valencia* in particular.

To this end four great canals have been made on either side of the river, from which the water is conducted throughout the whole country by numberless secondary canals, great and small*.

So much for irrigation by means of the rivers, whose currents at their mouths are, for this reason, extremely scanty and shallow.

As to the irrigation by means of the other waters, it is attended with difficulties of infinitely greater magnitude. In this case it is sometimes necessary to form tunnels through mountains and hills, to construct aqueducts, draw-wells, and cisterns; in a word, it requires immense labour and great expence.

Sometimes the husbandman is obliged to lay out his fields in terraces in the form of an am-

* Thus seventeen villages receive abundance of water by means of the four canals on the right bank, and thirty-seven from the four on the left.

phitheatre, at others to surround them with walls, or to provide them with small sluices ; so that these works demand an intimate acquaintance with hydraulics, and considerable capitals.

In regard to the mode of irrigation in general, a very strict order and severe regulations are established. Every parish, every proprietor of an estate, and every farmer, has his day, his hour, his minute, when the water comes to him, and after the expiration of his time, he is obliged, upon pain of incurring a heavy punishment, to let it flow off again.

It is by the greater or less magnitude of the works, by the ease or difficulty attending this mode of irrigating the lands, that the price of them is fixed ; and the quantity of water and the length of time allowed for receiving it, frequently give occasion to the most complicated law-suits between parishes and neighbours.

In many parts, where it was necessary to construct large and expensive aqueducts and cisterns, the undertakers of those works have been permitted to make a monopoly of them. In such places, for instance, in the Huerta de Alicante, Crevillent, &c. three piastres are often paid for water for an hour, so that a single day often brings in to the proprietor seventy-two piastres. Hence it is easy to conceive how the

stealing of water came to be considered, in this country, as a crime.

This general system of irrigation—these fertile regions, intersected by a thousand canals bordered with flowers, present a most interesting spectacle to the traveller. Every field, with its principal canal and its numberless ramifications, exhibits, in some measure, a miniature representation of the whole province. The earth is clothed with verdure and with flowers; every thing flourishes in fresh and charming luxuriance; and the crystal streamlets meander with soft murmurs among the shady trees.

ALGARROBOS.

This is the carob-tree,* the pods of which are here used as food for cattle. This tree, especially when it is well watered, grows to a great height and size; some of them spread to such a degree as to be several hundred feet in circumference, and yield upwards of one hundred arrobas† of fruit.

It is almost incredible with what rapidity the algarrobo grows, notwithstanding the hard-

* *Ceratoria siliqua*.

† An *arroba* is twenty-five pounds.

ness of its wood, in a favourable soil. Young trees, only a year old, often have stems from eight to ten inches thick, and branches ten or twelve feet long.

The extraordinary vital force of this tree, which blossoms twice a year,* and whose sap is consequently in continual motion,† probably contributes not a little to the rapidity of its growth. Be this as it may, the algarrobo is one of the finest trees of Valencia. What magnificent groups! What picturesque masses high arched in the azure ether!

There are three species of algarrobos which are distinguished by the names of *Melars*, *Costelluts*, and *Llindars*. The *Melars* have longer, narrower, and lighter leaves than the others, and their pods contain a few drops of a substance resembling honey. The *Costelluts* have very large dark leaves, and their pods are said to be of the worst quality. The *Llindars*, in respect both to their leaves and fruit, form an intermediate species between the other two.

* At the end of January, or in February, and about the middle of September.

† Owing to this, the vessels of the branches often swell, in very hot weather, to such a degree as to burst the bark with a loud noise. The algarrobo is, however, a very tender tree, and is even liable to be injured by a temperature of 36°.

The gathering of the algarrobas* is always a period of festivity for the country-people of Valencia. The men provide themselves with reeds twenty feet long, to knock down the fruit, which is collected by the women and children amidst singing and shouts of joy. Near this group feed a couple of good-natured asses, who eat of the new fruit till they are ready to burst. A Valencian painter has employed his pencil on a scene of this kind, and his performance would be seen with pleasure among the best landscapes.

In the mountainous parts of Valencia, you find whole woods of algarrobos, covering the declivities of the steepest mountains. The industrious country-people often clamber up to them, at the hazard of their lives, to collect their fruit for a winter stock of fodder. The cattle devour the algarrobas with great avidity, and grow extremely fat upon this kind of food.

SAN VICENTE.

This is the patron saint of Valencia, and his festival (the 19th of April) is celebrated with great solemnity. The most remarkable of the

* The tree is called *algarrobo*, and the fruit *algarroba*.

ceremonies is a theatrical representation of the miracles ascribed to him. It is a kind of puppet-show, which is exhibited on a stage erected for the purpose, in the *Plaza de San Domingo*. On account of the great number of these miracles, a fresh subject is represented every year.

Considered as a farce, it is certainly worth while to go, for once, to see this national exhibition. Can any thing, for instance, be more sublime, than the representation of the saint recovering a lost rice-cake, or stopping a ferocious bull, with his holy water sprinkler?

Who could be so reprobate as to remain unmoved, when he keeps a Moor, who is falling from the Micalet, suspended in the air; or joins together the scattered members of a child that had been cut in pieces, by the touch of a crucifix? when he calms the billows of the raging ocean; or, in the midst of the most tremendous tempest, banishes lightning for ever from the happy region of Valencia? Learn then, to pay due honour to St. Vincent, unless you wish to make all the Valencians your enemies.

But to be serious, San Vicente, notwithstanding his Dominican cowl, seems, at the bottom, to have been a meritorious character. He was a great friend to children,* he never

* For this reason the orphan-house at Valencia is under

dismissed the poor from his presence without relief, and he is to be regarded in some measure as the founder of the university of Valencia.*

It is plain enough that the good-natured inhabitants of this country have chosen a patron after their own heart. Let honour and respect then be paid to San Vicente !†

PALM-TREES.

It is well known that botanists make a distinction between the palm-tree, properly so called,‡ and the dwarf palm,§ though some, on account of the similarity of their fructification, class them in the same genus. || Both are met with in Valencia.

Of the former species whole woods are found, especially in the vicinity of Elche. In this district it is that the inhabitants pay the greatest attention to the cultivation of this tree, which

his peculiar protection, and is denominated *Casa de los Huerfanos de San Vicente*.

* In the year 1411. It was he who conceived the first idea of its foundation.

† He died in the year 1419.

‡ *Phœnix dactylifera*.

§ *Chamærops humilis*.

|| For instance, Cavanilles himself.

they consequently seem to understand better than those of the other parts of this province.

Palm-trees are reared from the stones of dates, and are not transplanted till the third or fourth year. They are then planted out in a clayey soil in preference to any other, three feet deep, and six feet asunder, in two rows, on the banks of a small canal. Care is taken to place one male between two female trees.

Here, watered every week, they gradually shoot up to the height of thirty, forty, and even sixty feet; till at length, in the tenth year, they commonly begin to blossom.

It is well known that a profit is derived, partly from the fruit and partly from the branches; the former of the female and the latter of the male trees. The fruit is divided into sweet and bitter, *candits* and *acrelets*;* both kinds are principally consumed in the country, but small quantities of the *candits* are sent to Madrid, Barcelona, and other places, and sold at the rate of fifteen reals the arroba.

The annual produce of a fruit-bearing tree, is estimated, upon an average, at four arrobas,

* These last if put for forty-eight hours in vinegar, acquire a most agreeable taste, but they will not keep longer than six or seven days.

or one hundred pounds, of dates. Supposing that the district of Elche contains about thirty-five thousand fruit-bearing trees, consequently that they yield annually one hundred and forty thousand arrobas of dates, the total value, reckoning the arroba at only ten reals, will amount to 1,400,000 reals.

As to the branches of the barren palm-trees, they are sold either in a raw state, or prepared. They are exported raw to every part of the north of Spain, and even to Genoa and Leghorn, to be used in the customary ceremonies of Palm-Sunday. When prepared, they form a very durable material for mats, baskets, chairs, and other articles.

It is computed that there are in Elche about eight thousand palms which bear no fruit. Reckoning each branch at a real and a half, the annual value of the whole will amount to about eight thousand piastres.

If, on the one hand, the cultivation of the palm-tree is extremely profitable, it is attended, on the other, with considerable danger.

How many times, in one week only, is the husbandman obliged to climb up to the top, sometimes to examine the flowers, at others the fruits, and to turn them to the sun! What efforts are required to mount the rugged and ever-vacillant trunk, to the height of fifty or

sixty feet ! Yet this may be seen every day, and seems, in truth, but mere play, in comparison with the labour of forming the crown of the tree.

It must be recollected that the branches of the barren palms only are of use to the cultivator. In order that they may grow straight and regular, and remain white and delicate, he performs, in spring, a singular operation. He binds up all the branches into a conical bunch, and thatches the whole with straw or esparto.

To accomplish this he is obliged to expose himself to very great danger. It is impossible, without shuddering, to see him hovering about the bottom of the crown, till, with incredible labour, he has fastened the first cord round it, and thus, if I may be allowed the expression, laid the foundation of his cone.

This done, he places upon it, a small ladder with twelve steps, which before hung near him upon the stem, and, mounted on the top of it, he encircles the crown with a second cord. When this is fastened, he draws up his ladder, which he places upon it, and carries a third cord round the crown. Thus mounting a stage higher with every cord, he at length reaches the extreme summit of the tree.

Having completed his cone, he throws away his hatchets, his cords, and, in short, every

thing that might embarrass him, lets down the ladder along the trunk, and descends as by a stair-case from one cord to another. He soon clears the cone, and having reached the trunk, he glides down with the velocity of lightning to the soft turf at its foot.

At the end of August the crown requires tying up again. He then begins, with still greater danger, at the extreme point, and descends in the same manner as before, from one story to another.

The palm-trees, it is well known, have very short roots, and therefore draw from the earth a very small portion of its virtue. They likewise cast but little shade, so that a great number of other vegetables may be raised beneath them.

Of these circumstances the inhabitants of Elche fail not to avail themselves. Under their alleys of palm-trees they always sow sandias, garden-herbs, and culinary vegetables. It is to be regretted that the cultivation of this useful tree is not more general in the warmer parts of Valencia.

To make amends, however, the above-mentioned dwarf-palms are so much the more common, for they propagate themselves spontaneously, with their long-stalked, fan-shaped leaves, in every uncultivated spot.

The kernels and roots, which resemble the artichoke in taste, are sometimes eaten or used as food for cattle. With the leaves and their stalks are made all kinds of matting and basket-work;* and the fine, reticular membrane under the bark, furnishes excellent wadding for cannon.

BURJASOT.

This beautiful village, about three miles from Valencia, is situated on a charming hill, which commands a view of the whole *huerta*, and is much frequented as a summer retreat on account of the purity of its air. Accordingly Burjasot contains a great number of handsome houses and pleasant gardens, and for eight months of the year you may live there in the best company.

Burjasot is farther remarkable for its subterraneous granaries, forty-one in number, dug in the hill. They are called in Valencian *Sijes*, and in Spanish *Silos*. Without quoting Columella, Varro, &c. we shall merely state, with Escolano and Cavanilles, that these *Sijes* were not constructed till the year 1573.

* This is the employment of many hundreds of women and children, especially at Villeneuve, Silla, Senija, &c.

To descend to particulars, they are perpendicular pits from thirty to fifty feet deep, that lead to a magazine from 180 to 190 feet square, constructed of masonry covered with fayence, in which corn keeps wonderfully well. They are now the principal magazines of Valencia, but are seldom more than one-third full.*

Over these Sijes there is a handsome terrace, which overlooks the whole huerta. For the rest, Burjasot is well worth the trouble of a visit on account of its figs and the monument of Francisca Advenant—a celebrated actress.

Strangers who wish to spend a few days or part of the summer at this place may find good accommodations, in a posada, which is remarkable for its cleanliness, and in several private houses. A neat furnished apartment, with an alcove and attendance may be had at the rate of from eighteen to twenty shillings per month; but in winter might be procured for about half that sum.

But at that season of the year, a residence at Benimamet, which is situated somewhat lower, is perhaps preferable for invalids: there they will find as good accommodations, and equally

* There are other Sijes at Nules, but they are not more than from twelve to twenty feet in depth, and from eight to twelve feet square.

pleasant walks. Those who chuse to remove to a greater distance from the capital, would do well to go to Gandia, a charming village seven leagues from Valencia.

CHUFAS.

The *Cyperus esculentus*, in Spanish *Juncia avellanada*, or vulgarly *Chufa*, is met with wild throughout all Valencia; but is not, strictly speaking, cultivated except at Almásera and Alboraya. The method of proceeding is as follows:—

They are generally planted at the beginning of July, ten or twelve bulbs together, in holes about six inches asunder.

As soon as the first shoots begin to appear, which they commonly do on the fourth or fifth day, the field must be watered, and this operation must be repeated every ten days. It is unnecessary to observe, that they must also be kept carefully weeded.

The *Chufa* continues to grow till the end of September, when it begins to flower. This, however, must be prevented, in order that the bulbs may grow to a larger size. By the end of October, these bulbs have arrived at perfect maturity; they are accordingly taken up in the usual way, and conveyed to the store-house.

In drying they lose about one-third of their weight, and are then sold for twelve reals the arroba. They are put into water for twelve hours, and are then eaten as sauce, or used at Madrid, Valencia, &c. for making a kind of almond-milk, there known by the name of *Orchatas de Chufas*.

LOS REYES.

Los Reyes, or according to its proper appellation, *San Miguel de Los Reyes*, is a convent of Jeronymites, half a league from Valencia. It is built on the same plan as the Escorial, and seems to have been erected by the same architect. It contains a great number of good pictures by Joanes, Ribalta, and Zarinena. A considerable collection of manuscripts,* principally of the ancient classics, among which is one of Livy in five volumes folio, is particularly deserving of notice.

This convent is endowed for sixty-two monks, who possess a revenue of twenty-seven thousand piastres, and consequently have enough to do to enjoy the good things of this beautiful country, without troubling their heads about study.

* It contains one hundred and fifty volumes.

ALPARGATES.

The mild, delicious climate of Valencia, which renders all the wants of life less urgent, is likewise favourable to the simple and original covering for the feet, which to judge from its name, appears to have been in use in the times of the Moors.

Alpargates are light shoes made of hemp or esparto, with a platted sole an inch thick, the bottom of which is besmeared with pitch. The quarters never exceed an inch and a half in height, and the upper leather is not more than three or four long.

These *Alpargates* are bound with ribbands, the ends of which serve to tie them. They cross each other upon the leg as high as the calf, and in full dress are adorned with a profusion of fringes, bows, &c.

A queen is not so proud of the most costly part of her dress, as a Valencian country-girl of her Sunday-*alpargates*, tied with red and blue ribbands.—For the rest they are the most convenient and the cheapest shoes that can be devised, and are in consequence a very profitable article of trade in various parts of Valencia.

At Uxo, Chelva, Forcal, and Millares, for example, three or four hundred persons, most of whom are unfit for laborious occupations, are employed in the manufacture of alpargates, and find a market for from twenty to twenty-four thousand pair a year. Estimating the value of each pair at from two to three reals, the annual amount of their earnings is from forty-eight to seventy-two thousand reals.

EARTHQUAKES.

Let not this word excite in the mind of the reader an idea of the tremendous catastrophes of Lisbon and Messina ! In Valencia they are nothing but slight transient horizontal undulations, to which its inhabitants are so accustomed, that they scarcely take notice of them.

But, it may be asked, must there not have been some explosions ?—Certainly : but they have been extremely rare ; they all appear to have been but partial ; and none of them ever attained the degree of violence that distinguished those, which in other countries have committed such terrific devastations. The chronicles of Valencia make mention of no more than two of these visitations, one of which occurred in 1645, and the other in 1748 : on both occa-

sions the most violent shock lasted scarcely seventeen minutes.

Alas ! then, and has the fairest portion of Spain, the paradise of Europe, reason to dread that it may possibly be swallowed up by an earthquake !—Unhappy hypochondriac ! Who would make himself miserable about every possibility ? Beneath the genial sky of Valencia, who could ever conceive such an idea ?

Ye strangers who have a desire to visit Valencia, be perfectly easy on this subject ! Along the coast, and especially in the *Huerta de Valencia*, a shock of any continuance was never experienced.

PITA.

This is the American aloe, which here multiplies in an extraordinary manner in dry situations, and on account of its prickly impenetrable leaves, may be used with great advantage for the fences of fields, gardens, and high roads. From the leaves are likewise made cords, bridles, tassels, fringes, and other articles of a coarser or finer texture.

Before the leaves can be employed for these purposes, they are prepared in the following

manner:—They are cut off at the root,* and after they have been thoroughly crushed upon a stone, they are tied up in bundles of ten or twelve together.

This done they are fastened by the upper end to a stone table placed aslant, and then scraped with a sharp dentated instrument of iron, till the fibres are cleared of all the spongy particles and are completely separated from each other. These fibres are dried in the air, and after being dyed any colour that is desired, they are used without farther preparation for articles of a coarser texture.

Those intended for finer works require to be passed through a kind of ley, which gives them the delicacy and softness of the best silk. This mode of preparation seems as yet to be a secret; at least, in the year 1798, it was practised by only one manufacturer.

The fibres of the aloe, mixed with hemp, are also used for making very good cloth. In this case the former are dyed blue, and with the hemp, which is of a yellow hue, produce a kind of mixed stuff.

* This must be done only in July and August. None but the middlemost leaves are taken for this purpose, the outer and innermost being too soft.

The peasantry here and there convert the leaves of the aloe to a very different purpose. They cut them small, and give them to their oxen to eat. They are accounted an extremely refreshing food in hot weather ; at least the cattle devour them with avidity.

Such are the aloes of this country. Whoever beholds for the first time the rows of blooming aloes, twenty or thirty feet high, that line the high-roads in the south of Spain, and extend farther than the eye can reach, will not be able to think without a smile of our hot-houses and their diminutive productions.

PORTA CELI.

Porta Celi is a Carthusian convent, four leagues from Valencia, on the declivity of a mountain which commands an enchanting prospect. Every thing here breathes tranquillity, repose, and religious seclusion. The neat cells, the rose-bushes before the windows, the lofty plane-trees in the burial-ground—every object around this asylum excites a sentiment of delicious peace and meek resignation.

The amateur of the arts who visits Porta Celi should not forget to see the superb marble columns in the church, and several good pictures

in the sacristy, by Alonzo Cano and Espinosa. Among the latter, a Madonna feeding the infant Jesus is particularly worthy of notice.

To the botanist the neighbouring mountains will afford not less gratification. Here he will find thick bushes of the cistus, phillyrea, strawberry-tree (*arbutus unedo*), wild laurel (*viburnum tinus*), mastic tree (*pistacia lentiscus*), oleander (*nerium oleander*); besides a profusion of beautiful andropogons, hyacinths, poppies of every kind, heath low pines (*coris*), forming the most beautifully variegated intermixture.

Porta Celi is remarkable for another curiosity, which ought not to escape the notice of any traveller. This is the *Vino de la Cartuxa*, which is cultivated almost exclusively on the domains belonging to the monastery, and is sold at the rate of from eight to ten reals a bottle. Thus richly supplied with all the gifts of nature, *Porta Celi* might indeed seem to be, if not heaven itself, at least (as its name implies) the gate of the celestial regions.

EARTHEN-WARE.

There are in this province numerous manufactories of earthen-ware *, among which that

* For instance, at Ribesalles, Onda, Manises, &c.

of Alcora, twenty leagues to the north of the capital, is particularly distinguished for the excellent quality of its productions. An article that we ought by no means to forget to mention is the *Azulejos*, or small squares of earthenware, with which Alcora supplies the whole province. They are used for covering the floors and walls of rooms, and are extremely favourable to cleanliness.

They keep out the heat in summer, and the damp in winter; and, when designed for the purpose of embellishment, they are painted with figures of every kind. The manufacturers have discovered the art of giving them the most vivid colours; but in respect to red, their efforts seem as yet not to have been crowned with complete success.

As to the other wares made at Alcora, they are remarkable for the fineness of the grain and the elegance of their forms. The same may be said of the manufacture of porcelain, which has likewise been attempted and brought to a high degree of perfection, with the assistance of workmen from Sevres, in France.

Exclusive of these manufactories of earthenware, of which that at Manises furnishes a coarser kind of *Azulejos*, the province of Valencia contains a great number of potteries, such as those of Alaqyas, Canals, Liria, Segorbe, &c.

which supply the whole country and the neighbouring provinces with neat commodities, and at a cheap rate.

PUZOL.

Puzol, a small, handsome place, surrounded with the most beautiful plantations, about three leagues from the capital, has been for ages the usual country-residence of most of the archbishops of Valencia.

What renders Puzol particularly worthy of the attention of the traveller, is the botanical garden, of considerable extent, formed there about eighty years since by one of those prelates, and which underwent a thorough reformation in 1799.

It is probably owing to the zeal of the celebrated Cavanilles, who was a native of Valencia, that we may here behold the most beautiful and scarce plants intermingled in charming confusion. Here you meet, for instance, with several species of yucca, cactus, and mimosa; the parkinsonia, the poinciana, the cupressus disticha (in Spanish, *cipres ableado*), and a choice collection of salvias, sidas, malvas, geraniums, &c. all of the most luxuriant growth. The budleia here shoots up to a stately tree, and the usteria tre-

pedara climbs up the walls. All the plants are arranged according to the Linnæan classification.

This garden might, nevertheless, still be enriched with a great number of other plants, and by no means common ones, that grow in its vicinity. Among these I would include, for instance, the *loeflingia hispanica*, the *ornithopodium minus*, the *iberis sempervirens*, the *narcissus jonquilla*, a multitude of rare *cistuses*, the different species of the *cyperus*, &c.

CULTIVATION OF RICE.

Rice was formerly cultivated, with a kind of mania, along almost the whole coast of Valencia, and even in the interior of the province, especially on the banks of the principal rivers. At present, the culture of this article is more limited ; but still 200,000 *hanegadas** are regularly sown with it. The annual produce is estimated at 291,700 *cahices*†, valued at 43,755,000 reals.

* One *hanegada* is equal to four hundred *estadales*. An *estadal* is five square feet, consequently a *hanegada* contains two thousand square feet.

† A *cahiz* is estimated at two hundred pounds.

It should be observed, that a *cahiz* and a half of rice in the chaff is worth 225 reals, and 230 if separated from it. In the latter case, the eighteen *barchillas* contained in a *cahiz* and a half lose an eighth part of their weight, and are then called a little *millers' cahiz*. The rice raised in Valencia is exported to almost all the provinces of Spain, and consequently forms a profitable article of commerce.

Nevertheless, upon a strict examination, all these advantages will be found to be but illusory. In spite of all that can be urged by the speculators in rice, it has been proved to a demonstration, that the cultivation of this grain is highly injurious not only to the population of the country, but also to the culture of other productions.

In the first place, in respect to population, it will be sufficient to consult the registers of births and deaths during the last fifty-seven years. In that period the births in the rice districts amount to 36,248, and the deaths to 39,595: in the more healthy parts, on the contrary, we find 42,022 births, and only 29,630 deaths. On comparing these data, it appears that in the latter districts the number of births was greater by 5774, and that of deaths less by 9965, which in the above fifty-seven years gives an excess of 15,739 persons.

A great number of calculations have in like manner proved to a demonstration, that in those districts in which the culture of rice has been relinquished, the population has almost doubled within the last twenty years.

With respect to the pernicious influence of the cultivation of rice on that of other productions, this position seems to be as fully proved as the other. At Turia, for instance, when rice was cultivated there, the value of the silk, wine, and olives, raised by the inhabitants, scarcely amounted to 25,000 piastres; but now the annual produce of those articles is not less than 36,000. This gives a surplus of 11,000 piastres; consequently more, or at least as much, as the culture of rice would have yielded, with infinitely greater detriment to health.

“But,” it may be advanced, “the cultivation of rice is rendered indispensably necessary by the whole economical situation of Valencia. We can scarcely raise corn enough for six months in the year; and shall we neglect so excellent a substitute—a commodity which may be so advantageously exchanged for the wheat of Castile and La Mancha?”

“Very good! But why have you appropriated so many fertile fields to the culture of rice? Why will you cultivate this substitute with the greatest toil, and the most evident in-

jury to population, when you might raise the best wheat with much less trouble and without any danger? Why would you have an article of exchange, when the commodity for which you barter it might be produced in your own country, with far greater certainty and at a much cheaper rate? Your merchants indeed, who enrich themselves at your expence, and receive a profit upon both articles, daily assure you to the contrary: but only make the experiment; confine the cultivation of rice to the already marshy tracts contiguous to the Albufera, and you will have no occasion to import corn into your province."

So much for the cultivation of rice in general. I shall now subjoin a few particulars relative to the method which is here pursued.

The rice is either sown in the field where it is intended to remain, or it is transplanted in preference, in order to obtain a more abundant crop. The young plants are removed twice; the first time at the beginning of May, and four weeks afterwards, when they are about a foot high.

Three or four plants are put into one hole, but in such a manner as to leave an interval of about a foot between each plant. After this, as in the first month, they must be covered with water to the depth of at least two feet; and it

must not be let off more than a few days at midsummer, for the sake of weeding the rice.

The latter now continues to grow, till towards the end of August it begins to flower, and in a month afterwards it is perfectly ripe. It is then cut and trodden out, as well as the corn, by mules; after which, it is carried to be ground. The mill is constructed in the same manner as a common corn-mill, with this difference, that the stone is covered with cork. All the operations attending the culture of rice are extremely laborious, especially reaping, which must always be performed in water.

Whoever has the courage to venture upon a journey through a rice country will often observe the fields there transformed as if by enchantment. In the morning, for instance, he may see them covered with ripe grain; by noon, half of it is cut down; at night the land is already ploughed, and by day-break you find it occupied by fresh rice-plants, a foot high. These metamorphoses are very common in Valencia.

BENIDORM.

This is a small, well-built, and extremely populous village on the coast, whose inhabitants

are perhaps the most expert fishermen in the whole province of Valencia. They are celebrated, in particular, for their dexterity in the great tunny-fishery; for which reason they are generally selected, in preference, for the annual *almadrabas* between Tortosa and Carthagenæ.

The tunny is universally known: at least a description and figure of it may be found in every system of natural history. It will be recollected that it is a migratory fish, which always swims in large shoals, and repairs to the shores in the spawning season. This instinct of migration, implanted in the tunny, gave occasion to the *almadrabas*, in the conduct of which the expert fishermen of Benidorm particularly excel.

An *almadraba* is an inclosure of large nets, formed in general at the distance of about two hundred fathoms from the coast. The smallest *almadraba* must be at least one hundred and thirty fathoms in length, and from eighteen to thirty fathoms in breadth, and must be made of the best and strongest esparto nets*.

It is then divided into several compartments, called chambers, which gradually grow narrower

* These nets are sunk by means of large stones, to the depth of from twenty to twenty-five fathoms. They are fastened to anchors, and are kept afloat by means of corks.

from the mouth, and are connected by apertures of proper dimensions. Of these chambers, the farthest, denominated *Camera de la muerte*, is the narrowest and the most important.

It is evident that the object of the fishermen must be to drive the tunnies into this enclosure: this is easily effected by means of a narrow passage, formed by nets extending from the shore to the entrance of the almadraba, into which the tunnies are allured by baits, or driven by boats stationed at intervals for the purpose.

In this manner the tunnies are often collected to the number of five or six hundred, and even more, in the almadraba, where, by a gradual contraction of the nets, they are driven from one chamber into another. This must, however, be done with great caution, till at length they are all crowded into the camera de la muerte, which is likewise provided underneath with very strong nets.

They are now let out one after the other by a small aperture, and killed so adroitly with a single stroke, that the fish is obliged to spring of itself into the boat which receives it.

Such are the almadrabas for catching the tunny, for which purpose our fishermen of Benidorm are selected in preference to all their countrymen. This employment pays them so well, that, after every season, which lasts from

four to five months,* the worst hand carries home at least six hundred reals.

It is easy to procure an opportunity of witnessing the operations of this fishery. It is sufficient to obtain a letter of recommendation from the commissioner of the navy, or merely to make a present of a few piastres to the *arraez* (or captain) of one of the boats. If you take care to provide yourself with half a dozen bottles of wine, and other suitable refreshments, you will have no reason to be dissatisfied with the manner in which you have spent the day.

An almadraba indeed affords a spectacle replete with interest and animation. All the boats are stationed about the passage, all hands are engaged with the nets, from all sides are heard the commands of the *arraez* intermingled with shouts of joy.

Bounding incessantly in living circles, these great fishes rush with a loud noise into the almadraba, and cooped up more and more closely every moment, they soon fill the whole interior space with their prodigious fins.

In this manner they leap and swim in wanton sportiveness, till at length the almadraba is drawn quite close upon them, and the decisive moment of their fate arrives.

* From April to September.

The boats station themselves about the rear of the net, where the fish are seen crossing each other in thick crowds. The pilot now gives the signal, the door of the net is opened, the arraez brandishes his hatchet, and, as if raised by a magic power, one fish after the other springs at every stroke into the tottering boat.

The sea reflects the brilliant rays of the sun, and a refreshing coolness is wafted from its friendly bosom. All is life and motion; far as the eye can reach, the liquid plain is covered with busy mortals. But wherefore this description—when the immortal Vernet has transfused the living scene into his admirable picture entitled *La Pêche du Thon*?

Besides the tunny fishery, the inhabitants of Benidorm are likewise engaged in that of pilchards, which has also its peculiar charms, and which a thousand little circumstances render still more interesting. Strangers, who are fond of these diversions, will find abundant amusement for three or four days at Benidorm.

The village itself is farther remarkable for the industry of the women, who here undertake all the labours of rural economy, in which they display equal activity and intelligence.

BARILLA.*

Among the different species of soda-plants, or glass-worts, found on the coast of Valencia and Murcia, the *barilla* (*salsola sativa*) deserves the first place. Without entering into a botanical description of this well-known plant, we shall here only introduce a few new particulars respecting its cultivation and use.

The *barilla* thrives best in a warm, dry, nitrous soil, and is sown towards the end of May. If this happens to be done immediately before rain, the plant appears above ground in twenty-four hours.

It grows to about a foot and a half in height, and three feet in circumference, till at length its bluish green leaves assume a reddish tint, which generally takes place in the month of August.

It is then pulled up, tied together in small bundles, and laid for a few days in a sunny place to dry. These bundles are then piled up into large heaps,† and stones are laid on the top of

* This word is sometimes used to denote the plant, and at others the soda obtained from it.

† These are called *garverones*. They are generally a foot square at the bottom, and from four to four feet and a half high.

them to prevent their being blown down by the wind.

When the barilla is ready for burning, large holes* are made near these heaps, and heated all over to the depth of some inches at least, by means of a continual fire. On this the ashes are carefully cleared out, the barilla is laid in lightly by three or four bundles at a time, and slowly burned.

It is to be observed, that the person employed in this business should always chuse the windward side of the pit, and close the aperture, but take care to leave a large air-hole on either side.

In this manner one portion of the barilla is burned after another; but the ignited soda must not be touched till about one third of the barilla is consumed.

The fire-men engaged in this occupation now take their long iron crooks, and turn and twirl about the mass in fiery circles, for ten or fifteen minutes, with the utmost violence.

Another third is now burned, and the same operation repeated, but for ten minutes longer. The last third is then added, after which the

* Their dimensions are determined by the quantity of barilla that is to be burned. For a pile of ten hundred weight, a hole of about one cubic foot and a half is made.

whole mass is stirred up, for the third and last time, at least for half an hour together.*

It is then left to cool, the hole being previously covered with earth, till, at the end of two or three days, it may be taken out in the form of a completely vitrified substance.

This barilla forms a very lucrative branch of commerce for the province of Valencia. It is sold at the rate of from seventy to eighty, and sometimes so high as one hundred and ten reals the hundred weight; and it is computed that upon an average between seven and eight thousand tons are annually exported to England, France, and other countries.†

It may be observed by the way that Valencia produces many of the inferior species of glass-worts, ‡ from which the soda, § properly so

* These operations are termed *chaqueaduras*.

† Barilla, it is well known, is used for making glass. The best is dry, clear, porous, and of a bluish green. The pieces should be sonorous: when wetted they should not emit a mouldy smell, and they ought not to be covered with a greenish incrustation.

‡ These are the following:—1. *Aguasul*, a species of *Mesembryanthemum*. 2. *Salicor*; the *salicornia* herbacea. 3. *Sosa prima*; the *Chenopodium maritimum*. 4. *Sosa blanca*; the *Chenopod. alb.* 5. *Sosa gorda*; the *Salsosa vermicular*. 6. *Sosa lenosa*; the *Salsola rosacea*. 7. *Hierba de la plata*; the *Mesembr. crystall.*

§ Called by the Spaniards *Sosa*.

called, is made. Of this article, which is chiefly used by the soap-boilers, about fourteen hundred tons, worth from eight hundred to a thousand reals per ton, are yearly exported to England, France, and Holland.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

These are not prevalent over the whole province, but only in certain parts, which the traveller would consequently do well, to avoid. These parts are the *Huerta de Alicante*, the district of Oropesa, the lordship of Museros, and in general all those tracts in which rice is still cultivated.

In the *Huerta de Alicante*, at Oropesa, and Museros, where there are several lagoons and marshes, scarlet fever is most common; but in the rice districts, for instance, on the banks of the *Riberas del Xucar*, putrid fever seems to be endemial.

In the *Huerta de Alicante* the contagion is most virulent in the summer months; but in the other parts it is most common in autumn and winter. At such times it often assumes a character truly pestilential, and carries off twenty or five-and-twenty persons in a day.

However, to confess the truth, the injudi-

cious method of treatment adopted by the medical practitioners, contributes not a little to this prodigious mortality. I particularly allude to the *cirnjanos* in the small towns and villages, who are in general extremely ignorant. What physician, in such cases, would begin with cupping and bleeding? Nevertheless, in spite of all ordinances, these *facultativos* remain obstinately attached to their ancient and vicious system.

Add to this the inattention to cleanliness, the superstitious practices at funerals, the negligence in regard to infected clothes, and then say, is it surprising that these distempers should be so extremely dangerous?

The surest way of exterminating them would doubtless be to drain the marshes and lagoons. Several plans have actually been proposed for that purpose, but hitherto no preparations have been made to carry them into execution. But let Spain only enjoy peace for thirty years—let her have but for thirty years another Aranda or Jovellanos at the head of her administration—and you will then see what a change will be effected over the whole face of that magnificent country!

SUGAR-CANES.

The sugar-cane is still cultivated only at Gandia, and in the neighbouring villages of Benirredra and Benipeix, where it is planted for the sake of the fresh juice, or for the purpose of improving the land. In all the other southern districts of Valencia, its culture seems to have been totally neglected since the introduction of West India sugar. Nevertheless, it may not be amiss to give a description of the general method, at least, as it is now practised at Gandia and the other places abovementioned.

The field is first divided into parallel beds two feet broad; and each bed, but only for one fourth of its length, is subdivided into smaller beds. This is done by means of a great number of parallel and transverse furrows, at the distance of ten inches from one another.

In each of these transverse furrows are planted, about the end of May, four small shoots of the preceding year, about ten inches long, and with at least three joints. They are placed five inches asunder, and carefully watered as often as is necessary.

As the plants do not strike very deep root in the two first months, the other three parts of the

bed may be sown with sallad, but by the end of July the ground must be again entirely clear.

By this time the young canes have attained the full height of a foot, and must not be left any longer without fresh support. Accordingly, their stems must be at least half covered with manure and earth taken from the part of the bed which has been left empty.

This operation is repeated, till, at the beginning of November, the cane has arrived at its full growth, and is soon afterwards fit for cutting.

If the plants are well manured and carefully watered, the crops generally turn out very abundant; each stock producing upon an average at least twenty-five new canes. Reckoning the value of the fresh juice and of the dung about the remaining roots at ever so low a rate, we shall still find that a plantation of sugar-canes yields a very handsome profit.

The juice is commonly sold for four reals per pound, and a field of sugar-canes forms excellent land for wheat or maize for the two succeeding years without any additional manure.

The sugar harvest is a real festival for the district of Gandia, when both old and young are sure to be exhilarated to intoxication by drinking, or rather eating the delicious juice.

MARBLE.

Valencia has many fine quarries, from which prodigious blocks of the most beautiful marble are extracted ; for instance, at Buixcarro, which is celebrated throughout all Spain for the beauty and fineness of its marbles, are found nearly horizontal strata, from which may be hewn columns thirty feet high and twelve or fourteen in diameter.

The quarries of la Cervera are equally remarkable. Here may, without much trouble, be discovered fifteen or eighteen different kinds, many of which display the rarest colours. The quarries of Rosell, Tramus, Rollo, Cuevas, &c. are celebrated for their beautiful fine-grained marble, susceptible of the highest polish.

And yet, with regret I must observe, the greatest part of these treasures are totally neglected. Scarcely are some of the finest marbles of Buixcarro and Cervera made use of for the palaces of the capital, or for churches and convents ; all the other quarries are hardly known even to their proprietors.

What then is to be done in this case ? Let us call the attention of the commercial nations of Europe to these treasures. What prodigious sums

are paid by them for Italian marbles ! Those of Valencia are in no respect inferior, and might be procured for half the price. At least it would be worth a trial, which, if successful, would procure the poor mountaineers a new branch of subsistence, and the whole province an important article of commerce.

CULTIVATION OF SILK.

The primary and most profitable production of the province of Valencia, that which occupies the greatest portion of its inhabitants, and almost equals all the other articles in value, is silk, a native of the delicious plains of Asia, and the cultivation of which never fails to excite a multitude of southern ideas.

It is, however, to be regretted that the Valencians, notwithstanding the vivacity of their imagination, have remained so far behind in regard to the first and most important operations ; and that, in spite of all the efforts and of all the encouragements of the government, they adhere, with extreme obstinacy, to their old processes.

This is particularly the case with respect to their mode of reeling, which is certainly one of the worst that can be employed. It is well

known that each perfect thread of silk consists of two principal threads, each of which is composed of those of three or four cocoons. These principal threads must be combined in the most exact manner, by rubbing and twisting them together with the greatest care.

This is the well known method improved by Vaucanson, and practised, for instance, in Piedmont: in Valencia, however, it is totally unknown. There the single threads are wound together upon the same spindle, and the persons employed in this business never give themselves any concern about their crudeness and inequalities.

In vain has the government endeavoured, by means of a thousand encouragements, to introduce Vaucanson's excellent method—in vain did the intelligent Lapayesse, who made this subject his particular study, twenty years since establish a reeling-school in the vicinity of the capital—most of the manufacturers seem, in spite of every thing, to be attached with blind obstinacy to their former vicious system of winding silk.

And why? For a very simple reason—because a pound of this silk is fifty or sixty reals cheaper, and is, besides, much more easily and quickly wrought. Whether the stuffs are of bad quality, and whether the French manufactures

are superior to theirs, are questions about which they never trouble their heads. Their ambition aspires not to foreign commerce; and the purchasers of their own country are either accustomed to their inferior productions, or are obliged to put up with them.

Upon the whole, the silk manufactures of this country are not judiciously regulated. There is no general point of association, where all the processes of the silk-manufacture may be executed under the inspection of enlightened persons, in conformity with a certain system, and with the most scrupulous accuracy. The people of Valencia have no idea of such an establishment. Here all the operations are divided among a thousand scattered hands: the consequence is, that all their work is imperfect, and performed in the most slovenly manner. But to return to the raw silk.

It is computed that Valencia produces annually upon an average 1,500,000 pounds of silk, valued at from four to five pesos per pound. Of this quantity about 384,130 pounds are taken off partly by the other Spanish provinces, and, as the exportation is prohibited, are partly smuggled into England, France, and Portugal. The remainder is consumed in the country. Which way soever you cast your eyes in Valencia, you perceive objects that remind you of the

cultivation of silk. The innumerable plantations of mulberry-trees—the incessant noise of spinning-wheels and looms—the profusion of silk dresses, handkerchiefs and stockings—a multitude of little ornaments, curtains, and coverings made of this material; in a word, every thing announces an occupation which so sweetly harmonizes with the delicious climate.

ROADS.

The principal highways in the whole *plana*, or plain, are excellent. You travel upon firm, solid roads, amid the most beautiful scenery, which exhibits a spectacle of diversified fertility: You find bridges and mile-stones, houses of entertainment, and *ventas*, all constructed with splendour, or at least with extreme neatness.

These observations are particularly applicable to the new *camino real*, leading from Valencia to Madrid. No stranger will travel this road, where nothing meets the eye but opulence, abundance, and fertility, without feeling the greatest pleasure. The *ventas* are provided with clean beds and good furniture; and in some places you are even served in Wedgwood's ware.

The cross roads between the villages are far from being in such good condition, and sometimes cannot be passed without great inconvenience. As many of them are five or six feet lower than the neighbouring fields*, in sudden inundations in the winter, they are rendered totally impassable for several days.

The roads in the mountains are still more difficult, and often endanger the life of the traveller. Some of them are absolutely impracticable for carriages, on account of the multitude of stones with which they are encumbered.

So much the more agreeably are you surprised, on descending into the charming *plana* by excellent roads, and through an enchanting country. You fly three good leagues through an uninterrupted succession of gardens, to the very gates of Valencia; and you imagine that you cannot have been much longer than half an hour in performing the journey.

SALT-WORKS.

These are the *Salinas de Manuel, de la Mata, and de Torrevieja*.

* The country-people follow the bad practice of taking earth from the roads, and raising their fields with it.

The Salinas de Manuel, near San Felipe, in the southern part of the province, are situated on the declivity of a mountain of gypsum, from which the salt water is obtained by means of a row of draw-wells, and is conducted through several basons, of different dimensions, formed one above the other.

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that the progress of this operation depends on the longer or shorter time taken up in the crystallization, and that the lowest basons are always the smallest. The total profit of these salt-works, after defraying all expences, is estimated at sixteen or eighteen thousand piastres.

The Salinas de la Mata are also remarkable salt-works. Like the former, they are situated in the southern part of the province, northward of Cape Cerver, at the distance of about fifteen hundred fathoms from the sea. They form a large bason, about a league and a half in circumference, the bottom of which is composed of mud, and where a great quantity of rain-water, descending from the mountains, is mixed with the sea-water that penetrates upward from below.

The crystallization generally commences with the warm weather in the middle of spring, and is finished about the middle of August at the latest. The incrustation is then as hard as

marble, and from ten to twelve inches thick. It is broken up with axes, and afterwards pounded small in the usual manner. The annual profit, after paying all expences, is computed at 100,000 piastres.

The third of these salt-works are those of Torrevieja, five leagues from Orichuela, and at the distance of about sixteen hundred fathoms from the sea. Here is a lagoon, of considerable extent, which is always full of rain-water, and to which the sea-water is conducted by a canal. The crystallization takes place in the manner already described. The yearly profit, deducting all expences, is said to amount to near 80,000 piastres.

These three salt-works not only supply the whole province, but export part of their produce to Arragon, Holland, Denmark, Genoa, &c. The salt of la Mata is in particular request: in respect to the qualities of strength, consistence, and fineness, it certainly deserves the preference.

To facilitate the transportation of the salt from these works, as well as from those of Torrevieja, small dykes and harbours have been constructed. Among these, Guardamar, in the vicinity of la Mata, is particularly worthy of notice.

Besides these salt-works, I must not forget

to mention the salt-rock of Pinoso, three leagues to the south-east of Monovar. It is composed of solid masses of salt, as hard as stone, which in some places are white, in others red, and in others grey. It extends two leagues from east to west, and one from north to south, without any variation of its component parts, though it is full of deep furrows and clefts.

Its summit is not less than two hundred feet high, and upon it have been erected three small towers for the watchmen stationed on the coast. Near these towers rise six springs; two of them are fresh at their source, but they soon become impregnated with saline particles, which they deposit, in the form of crystals, upon the stones and plants which they meet with in their course.

The salt of the Pinoso is extremely coarse; and amidst so great a superabundance of better, very little, or none at all of it is used. It is nevertheless a curious circumstance to see so prodigious a rock of solid salt, rising detached above the surface of the earth.

PANTANOS.

Among the many contrivances for watering the land in this country, the most remarkable are the *Pantanos*, or great reservoirs formed in

various places, as, for instance, at Alicante, Elda, Elche, &c.

One of the largest pantanos is that of Alicante. It is half a league in circumference, and was originally nothing but a natural ravine, surrounded partly with calcareous rocks, and partly with a lofty elliptical wall*. It is in general twenty feet deep, but in many places fifty, and is replenished by a great number of rivulets and small streams, which have been conducted thither for the purpose from the neighbouring mountains†.

In order to make this water useful for irrigation, an aperture has been left in the wall at the foot of the rocks, the flood-gate of which may be placed higher or lower, according to the state of the water. To this aperture the water is conducted by a channel which is hewn out of the rock, and communicates with the pantano.

The stream of water obtained in this manner

* The greatest height of this wall is stated to be ninety-eight feet, the greatest thickness forty-three, and the greatest length one hundred and seventy feet. It was constructed in the year 1574, raised to its present height in 1594, and underwent considerable repairs in 1697 and 1738.

† In heavy rains, the pantano, though before scarcely one-third full, is often replenished in four or five hours to such a degree as to run over.

is immediately divided into four canals, and, as usual, employed, by means of a number of lateral branches, in the irrigation of the whole huerta. Each field that receives this water is obliged to pay a considerable contribution, the annual amount of which is estimated at eight thousand piastres.

This sum ought by right to be paid into the royal exchequer; but it is generally conferred as a pension on some one of the grandees. I need not observe that the pantano is provided with a sluice, and may be entirely let off from time to time*, for the purpose of being cleansed.

This pantano, when seen from the neighbouring rocks, exhibits the picturesque appearance of one of the small lakes of Switzerland. Around it on every side rise lofty mountains, covered with trees and bushes; and its pellucid bosom reflects the azure of the sky, intermingled with the most beautiful green.

There are smaller pantanos, but all formed in the same manner, at Elda, Elche, Ontinient, Villajoyosa, and other places, which the traveller must not mistake for natural lagoons. Much as I am inclined to doubt whether all these pantanos are constructed on correct hydrostatic principles, that is a point on which I shall not venture to decide.

* This is done every four years.

ESPARTO.

The esparto, it is well known, is a species of feather-grass, denominated by botanists *stipa tenacissima*. It is a production peculiar to the southern provinces of Spain, and abounds in all the uncultivated mountains and eminences of Valencia.

This esparto is a vegetable of great importance to the whole province. Out of it are made forty-five different kinds of articles, such as cordage, mats, baskets, nets, &c. the demand for which has gradually extended over all Europe. In the first class, the cables are particularly celebrated, for their cheapness, lightness, and durability.

One of these cables, from twelve to fourteen inches thick, and ninety to one hundred fathoms in length, costs at the utmost thirty piastres, but generally lasts as long as two made of hemp, and always floats on the surface of the water*. No other cables are used by the Spanish navy; and the French and English have always held cordage made of this substance in high estimation.

* This is a very valuable property on dangerous coasts, on account of the blind rocks.

With respect to the smaller articles made of esparto, they consist of mats, baskets, chair-bottoms, table-mats, sacking for beds, and the like, which are equally cheap and durable. Here and there, for instance at Elda, attempts have been made to manufacture plush from the esparto. For this purpose, a machine called an esparto-hammer has been expressly contrived, by means of which the rigid fibres are beaten till they become perfectly soft.

All these fabrics of esparto form a profitable branch of industry for a great part of the province. In those districts you cannot go into a house, especially if it be in the country, but you find the family engaged in these occupations, to which even the men themselves devote their hours of leisure.

This work is extremely easy, and it pays comparatively very well. A person who sticks to it, can make a piece thirteen or fourteen English ells in length, and fourteen inches wide, in a day, and thus earn from six to seven reals.

This being the case, how much is it to be regretted that so much waste is made of so useful an article as the esparto, and that it is even exported unwrought. How often are the industrious artisans at a stand for want of this material, while in other parts of the country it is used for fuel or for manure! How much have,

for example, the fabrics of Elda suffered from the scarcity of raw esparto,* while at the same time it might be had in abundance in foreign ports ! I leave the intelligent reader to make his own reflections on this subject.

A plant very often confounded with the esparto, but totally different from it, is the *junco* (*juncus effusus*), a species of bulrush, which grows only in damp situations. With this vegetable are made the *esteras finas*, or fine variegated mats, which are sold in England, Holland, France, Italy, and other countries, by the name of *Spanish carpets*. These *esteras finas* are principally manufactured at Crevillent, where there are looms for the purpose.†

A piece nine English ells long and three quarters of an ell wide, sells for between twenty-five and thirty reals. The inhabitants of Crevillent often go themselves to London, Paris, and Genoa with their goods, of which they annually sell upon an average to the amount of forty thousand piastres.

* The earnings of the inhabitants, which formerly amounted to five hundred piastres a week are now reduced to sixty. The same is the case at Millares, Bettera, Aetana, Crevillent, Adsanetas, Liria, and other places, where the annual produce has decreased nearly two-thirds.

† The *esteras finas* are all woven, but on the contrary the *esteras bastas* are only platted.

WATCHMEN OF THE COAST.

It is generally known that the flat and open coast of Valencia was formerly much exposed to the depredations of Algerine corsairs, and that it is at present extremely favorable to smuggling. This sufficiently explains the origin and utility of the watchmen stationed along the coast, to whom this article relates.

To begin then with those who were placed as sentinels to prevent the visits of the Algerines, but who, since the treaty of 1785, which has been faithfully observed, have become, in some measure superfluous; they were distributed along the coast, in the *atalayas* or watch-towers, which owe their origin to the times of the Moors.

Here they observed every sail that appeared upon the ocean, and, on the slightest suspicion, gave notice of it to the inhabitants of the coast. This was done in the day-time by means of flags, and at night by rockets, or the firing of guns; so that the whole coast was in motion on the slightest alarm.

If these preparations were not sufficient to deter the corsairs, troops were dispatched to the shore, prodigious fires were kindled, and small mines were sprung; by which the intended de-

scent of the pirates was frequently prevented. It was not seldom, however, that the Algerines, under favour of the night, and in profound silence, made good their landing at some unguarded point, where many a village was plundered, and part of their unfortunate inhabitants dragged into captivity.

Since the peace concluded in 1785 put an end to these depredations, the watchmen stationed along the coast are of little use, except in time of war, to observe the motions of French or English cruisers, or pirates sailing under the flags of those nations. During the last war they were instrumental in preventing more than one descent of this kind, though some of their pretended services were certainly mere gasconades.

These watchmen appear to be more negligent, perhaps we ought to say, more indulgent, in respect to smugglers, who carry on a lucrative trade, chiefly in tobacco, cottons, and jewellery. In vain the officers of the customs multiply their sentinels — in vain they dispatch their armed cutters — the smugglers often contrive to outwit, and still oftener to bribe them, and to convey whole cargoes in small boats to the shore.

This contraband trade is promoted by the French, English, and Ragusans, but especially

by the two former nations, as much as lies in their power. War, so far from throwing any obstacles in its way, only increases the profit and activity of both parties.

Thus, during the last war, for example, a very brisk contraband trade was carried on with the coasts of Valencia and Catalonia, from Majorca, the principal depot for English merchandise of every description; and thus too, a multitude of prohibited articles are continually finding their way from the nearest French ports into the south of Spain.

In this manner the Ragusans introduce considerable quantities of the commodities of the Levant, on which heavy duties are imposed; and thus also, not only the English, French, and Ragusans, but likewise the Danes and Swedes, return laden with Spanish piastres.

Till a greater degree of activity shall pervade the manufactures and commerce of Spain, all the measures adopted by the government for the prevention of smuggling, will prove ineffectual. Abuses of this kind are not so accidental as many are disposed to believe; they result from the defective constitution of the whole social body, which stands in need of a radical cure.

MOUNTAINS.

The mountains of Valencia are composed of a great number of branches which are regularly united, and which, in the northern part of the province, run from north to south; in the western, from south-east to north-east; and in the southern, from west to east. Of these last, some extend to the coast, where they form the Cabo San Antonio de la Nao, and Cabo Toig.

The highest of all these mountains are the Aytana and Mariola, in the southern, and the Peuaglosa in the northern, division of the province. According to an estimate which is probably pretty near the truth, they are above one thousand fathoms above the level of the sea. A general observation which has been made respecting the mountains of Valencia, is, that the declivities toward the north-east are the gentlest and lowest, and those toward the south-east the highest and most abrupt.

These mountains are principally composed of lime-stone, intermixed with strata of shell-fish. Many of these strata are twelve or fourteen feet thick; and great numbers of the shells, which are invariably found in families, retain their natural polish and their original form.

Thus, for instance, in Monte Meca, between Almansa and Ayora, thick strata of lime alternate with still thicker beds of pectinites; and, on the summit of Peuaglosa, as well as upon the mountains of Cervera, buccinites, in excellent preservation, are found similarly intermixed.

On the mountains of Pego you may frequently observe stones with the impressions of fishes; and the peaks of the Aras de Alpente are composed of calcareous strata, which repose on beds of ostracites filled with marble.

All these petrefactions are not, it is true, equally perfect on all the mountains, but their position seems every where to be the same. For the rest, veins of spath and indurated ochre of various colours, may be observed in the calcareous rocks.

Besides the ordinary mountains of lime-stone, we, however, meet with several of chalk and sand-stone, especially in the northern part of the province. These are either intermingled with mountains of marble, or situated between mountains of lime-stone. The strata of the sand-stone mountains are much more inclined toward the horizon than those of the lime-stone mountains, and their interstices are filled up with quartz and spath.

With respect to the metals and minerals

ound in these mountains, they yield iron, copper, lead, quicksilver, and cobalt; alabaster, marble, and abundance of beautiful crystals; but to this subject we shall recur in a separate article.*

The lower parts of these mountains likewise present the botanist with a multitude of beautiful and, in part, rare plants. Thus you find, for instance, the narcissus with large flowers (*narcissus bulbocodium*), and a great number of its varieties; many beautiful chrysanthemums, especially the *chrys. coronarium*, and *chrys. frutescens*; numerous varieties of the mountain germander (*teucrium montanum*), &c.

WATER-FESTIVALS.

The reader is acquainted with the system of irrigation pursued in Valencia, with the pains which are bestowed upon it, and the expensive undertakings which it requires. Whoever wishes to see every thing relative to this subject collected in one single point, must pay a visit to the neat and industrious village of Crevillent.

As in the towns of mountainous regions mining occupies the whole attention of the inha-

* See *Mineralogical Observations*.

bitants, so, at Crevillent, hydraulics is cultivated with an ardour, a passion, a success, that are truly admirable. Norias, cisterns, aqueducts, and canals, every where meet the eye; in every place water, and nothing but water, is the subject of conversation; on all sides this life-giving element is seen abundantly distributed among fertile fields and blooming gardens. Water and its treasures are the point round which revolve all the activity, all the ideas, and the whole domestic economy, of the inhabitants of Crevillent.

This enthusiasm seems to have given rise to the water-festivals, as they are denominated, several of which are annually held at Crevillent. They generally take place at the opening of any newly-discovered spring, and are distinguished from all others by the ingenuity of their emblematic ceremonies.

The spring is discovered; the canal is completed; the aqueduct is finished—at length the day appointed for the solemn opening arrives: * the joyous inhabitants, in their best clothes, and adorned with garlands of flowers, repair to the spring. Here they range themselves along the little canal, and the alcalde, with the persons by whom the undertaking has been

* A Sunday afternoon is generally chosen for this purpose.

executed, proceed to the accustomed formalities.

The mouth of the spring is slightly closed, but round about it are strewed garlands and green branches. The alcalde gives it a name, fixes its limits, and draws up the usual instrument.

A flag is then hoisted, and instantly the little stream rushes with loud murmur into the canal. The air is now rent with shouts of joy, the sound of trumpets and drums, and the report of cannon; in a word, every thing combines to produce a noise which needs no description.

No sooner has the water begun to discharge itself into the canal, than the people run to it with hats, basons, glasses, and pitchers: each strives to be the first to catch some of the water, and each expects from it some particular advantage. The aged wash with it their feeble eyes; the maidens look upon it as a powerful cosmetic; the married women drink it to promote fecundity; and the young fellows regard it as a specific for every disorder. In this competition they thrust, they crowd, and jostle each other, and a thousand laughable circumstances arise from the general confusion.

The day is thus spent in mirth, sport, and joy. The happy throng return home in triumph;

the merry dance is struck up beneath the shady algarrobos ; and what the water wants in strength, is abundantly compensated by the exquisite muscadel.

ANTIQUITIES OF HIFAC.

Among the numerous remains of ancient Roman grandeur which still exist in the province of Valencia, the ruins of the villas discovered between Hifac and Calpe, may, perhaps, be deemed the most important.

They were first discovered in 1792, by the celebrated Cavanilles, and are composed of six connected apartments, in a state of extreme decay, with mosaic pavements, the designs of which are partly in good preservation, but have no particular merit.

Thus, for example, on one of these floors are seen thirty-six small squares, black upon a white ground, surrounded with triangles, whose hypothenuses rest upon the sides of the squares ; and in another are found black and white squares, separated from each other by narrow stripes, and surrounded with double lines.

On a third, which is likewise black upon a white ground, is represented a vine standing in a vase, on each side of which is a human figure

with wings. The others are mere repetitions of the same designs, with certain slight alterations.

As no more than thirty-five feet from north to south, and twenty-seven from east to west, have been dug up, these ruins of Hifac can have but little interest for the foreign antiquary. A few small coins of Nero have been found among them.

The *frankenian* and *passerina hirsuta*, the beautiful *ultra pavonia* and *intestinalis*, the *tubularia acetabulum*, and several other plants which abound on this coast, will probably appear to the botanist much more deserving of attention.

WINES.

The province of Valencia produces a great number of excellent wines, among which those of Alicante and Benicarlo have long been celebrated in foreign countries.

The wines of Alicante are made of five different kinds of grapes, the Muscadel, Forcallada, Blanquet, Parrell, and Monastell. For the genuine Alicante, the Monastell grapes alone ought, by right, to be used; but fruit of inferior quality is too frequently employed for

that purpose. Malmsey, or *Malvasia*, is extracted from Muscadel, Forcallada, and Blanquet grapes, and is of different quality, according to the different proportions of the mixture.

With respect to the wines of Benicarlo, a distinction must be made between the actual growth of that place, and the wines of Murviedro, Vinaroz, &c. which are exported under that name, but are of far inferior quality.

The exportation of Alicante and Benicarlo wines is very considerable. It is computed that three thousand five hundred tuns,* each worth from 100 to 115, and even 170 pesos, are annually sent abroad. The Alicante wines are celebrated for their agreeable taste and stomachic virtue, and those of Benicarlo for their strength and comparative cheapness. For this reason the latter are frequently used to mix with the lighter French wines, and are often exported to America and other countries for Medoc.

The common wines of Valencia are almost all consumed in the province, or used for distillation. They are in general extremely cheap.

* Of 100 *cantaros*, or 75 Castilian *arrobas*. The *cantaro* is about $12\frac{1}{2}$ *Hamburgh quarts*.

A quartillo of this kind, which we should be glad to procure for a rixdollar (about three shillings and sixpence sterling), is here sold retail for five or six quartos ;* but taken by the cantaro together for less than four. All these wines have some resemblance to the genuine Alicante, and are recommended by an agreeable flavour peculiar to themselves.

Of the brandy of Valencia, great quantities are exported to France, where it is used to adulterate the French brandies. Not a little is likewise smuggled into England from Guernsey ; but the greatest portion is sent to Spanish America. The cantaro, of $18\frac{3}{4}$ pounds of Castile, is sold according to its strength, at 18, 20, 27, $34\frac{1}{2}$, and 36 reals.

We must not forget to mention the *arrope*, or syrup of new wine, a great quantity of which is made at Beniganim, in the following manner. To any quantity of new wine is added one-twelfth of calcareous earth, and the whole is stirred for half an hour over a slow fire.

When the lees have settled to the bottom, and the liquor is fine, the latter is poured off, and then boiled two or three hours, till it acquires a due consistence, which may be known

* From three halfpence to two-pence English.

to be the case, when a drop sinks to the bottom of a glass of water, and immediately rises again unmixed to the surface.

The arrope is then poured into stone jars, and put away for future use in confectionary and the like.

With respect to the *pasas*, or raisins of this country, of which fourteen hundred tons are annually exported, the best are made at Benisa, and in the adjacent country of muscadel grapes. The process is as follows :

A ley is made of the ashes of rosemary, oleander* and thymelæa†, one third of which is afterwards poured off, and strengthened by the addition of quick-lime. The remaining two thirds of weaker ley are then boiled in a cauldron, into which are at length put the grapes, inclosed in a perforated stew-pan. After boiling a few minutes, they are taken out and looked at.

If they still appear green, some of the stronger ley is added ; but if they have grown coarse and rough, the ley in the cauldron is weakened. These trials are repeated till a due mixture of the ley is produced.

When the grapes have been boiled with care, they are carried to the drying-places. For this

* *Nerium oleander*.

† *Daphne gridium*.

purpose bare rocks are commonly chosen, and there the grapes are spread upon mats of the *Artemisia campestris*. They require turning every three or four days, till the sun has evaporated all the humidity.

Such are the various uses to which the fruit of the vine is applied in Valencia, where the vintage gives occasion to one of the most pleasing of the festivals of the south. Inestimable gift of indulgent heaven! who could have supported the burden of life, hadst thou not been bestowed for our consolation and refreshment?

ALMOND-TREES.

There are in Valencia six different species of the common almond-tree, distinguished by the names of Pastaneta, Bale, Blancal, Mollar, Comuna, and Amarga almonds.

The pastaneta-almonds are of a more elliptical form than any of the others. The tree is least capable of resisting cold, but grows to the height of from twenty to twenty-five feet. The Bale-almonds are larger and sweeter than the preceding, but the tree is smaller, and the blossom white. The Blancal-almonds are large, but of inferior quality; the tree has white blossoms, and grows to a considerable size.

The Mollar-almonds are remarkable for the softness of their shells. The tree blossoms later than any of the others. The Comuna and Amarga-almonds are small, and are different only in their flavour. The Amarga is probably the primitive stock from which all the rest are sprung: at least all the plants raised from fruit of the other species degenerate into this.

The almond-tree here thrives best in a light calcareous soil, in which it attains the age of sixty years. It is raised from the fruit, and grafted, at the end of the second year, as low as possible. In the fourth, it is transplanted into the place where it is intended to remain*. Here it may be again engrafted; but it is consequently later before it produces fruit.

It is very common in this country to inclose the fields with almond-trees, which in February, when they are in bloom, afford a charming spectacle. Nothing can be more enchanting than to see, beneath the most beautiful sky, long rows of flourishing almond-trees, with their young, brilliant foliage, and roseate blossoms.

Unfortunately this tree is so extremely delicate, that it is liable to be injured by a single

* This must be done in December, when the sap has fallen.

cold day. This is more particularly the case in the northern parts of Valencia, where indeed the climate is not always so mild as on the coast.

Let me add one word concerning the Valencia almonds, as they are called, which are to be had in Germany of any confectioner. They are here sold at the rate of about five pence per pound : their shells make excellent fuel. One hundred pounds of their ashes yield sixteen pounds of pot-ash ; so that upon the whole they are a tolerably profitable article.

ST. MARTIN'S CAVERN.

Between the two easternmost promontories of the coast of Valencia, known to commercial nations by the names of Cabo St. Martin and Cabo de la Nau *, is a small but deep bay, surrounded by lofty, perpendicular rocks.

At the foot of these rocks are a great number of caverns of different dimensions, the largest of which, denominated Cueva de St. Martin, is worthy of notice. Those who have the cu-

* The natives of this country call the former Cabo Prim y Negro, and the latter, by a strange contradiction, Cabo San Martin.

riosity to pay a visit to it, may procure a boat, with two or three hands, at the neighbouring village of Xabra; the expence of which will be about fifteen reals.

As soon as you have doubled the cape of the same name, you perceive before you the great cavern, formed of lime-stone intermixed with alabaster, at the foot of inaccessible rocks, cleft in a thousand directions. At the entrance, it is upwards of two hundred, but in the interior two hundred and fifty feet in diameter; and its depth is about three hundred and sixty.

From the roof are suspended innumerable green, white, and bluish stalactites, and on the north side are to be seen petrified masses, in the form of cascades suddenly frozen in their descent. The bottom, which at flood-tide is covered by the sea, is strewed with prodigious fragments of rock.

For the rest, this cavern affords a retreat to great numbers of wild pigeons, and is extremely convenient for fishing; for which reason, in the summer months, you may often find in this place numerous parties of amateurs of the sports of fishing and shooting.

But, independent of all these curiosities and diversions, a visit to St. Martin's Cavern will amply repay the botanist for his trouble. Wherever there is a hand's breadth of veget-

able earth, he is sure to find it occupied by the rarest and most beautiful marine plants.

OIL.

The common oil of Valencia is not of the best quality: it is twenty per cent worse than that of Apulia and Provence, and for this inferiority the following reasons are assigned:—

In the first place, the management of the trees is extremely careless and faulty. Most of the cultivators of olives adhere to their old prejudices, notwithstanding all the premiums proposed by the Patriotic Society for their improvement.

Secondly, the olives are gathered much too late, and without attending to the necessary precautions, so that they are often full of spots, and even rotten.

Thirdly, they are carried good and bad together, and frequently half decayed, to the press; but this, to be sure, is rendered unavoidable, by the oppressive system of privileged mills.

All these circumstances sufficiently account for the inferior quality of the oil of Valencia. But, that it might be rendered nearly equal to that of Provence by an improved method of cultiva-

tion and management, several successful experiments seem to have demonstrated beyond the possibility of doubt.

But, be the quality of the oils of Valencia what it will, they fail not to form a very lucrative article of commerce. Precisely on account of their peculiar sharpness* they are in great request with the soap-makers of Marseilles and other places, so that from four to five thousand tons, at 170 piastres per ton, are often exported in a year.

A curious circumstance which deserves to be noticed here, is, that in many parts of Valencia, for instance, at Villafames, there are olive-trees which were standing three or four centuries ago, in the times of the Moors, and beneath which, twelve or fifteen persons may conceal themselves.

THIEVES OF WATER.

I know not whether the industrious Lipenius has any thing in his collections relative to thieves of water; so much is certain, that there

* This quality seems to be derived from the soil. It is asserted that, for this very reason, the oil of Valencia possesses a peculiarly cleansing property.

are people of this class on board of every ship, and that they abound still more in Valencia, with this difference that the former steal it to drink, and the latter for the purposes of irrigation.

The reader will recollect what has been said respecting the canal system of Valencia, the costly works and the heavy expences connected with it. He knows that water here is invaluable, that it is systematically distributed, and that in many places its price is enormous. Can he then be astonished to find that there are people who steal water in this country, where it is often dearer than good wine ?

Yonder sneaks abroad the poor industrious thief, who beholds his scanty piece of ground languishing for drought ; yonder he steals along, favoured by midnight darkness, laden with his buckets and calashes to receive the invaluable capture.

With a beating heart he climbs the steep ascent to the peaceful spring ; trembling he fills his vessels to the brim, and returns breathless to his anxious wife. He now exults in the success of his enterprize ; he has contrived to elude the vigilance of the sleeping watchmen, and his little cistern is again supplied for several days.

Another time he keeps himself concealed among the bushes near the pantano. Unobserv-

ed he forms a communication by means of cork pipes with the principal canal, and the water merrily runs into his casks placed in a lower situation.

This operation is more dangerous, and presupposes an understanding with the watchman. The thief cheerfully sacrifices a piastre for the chance of gaining perhaps ten times as much by his booty.

Emboldened by success, he at length ventures to turn off one of the numberless secondary canals. His whole family is now busily employed in carrying the water in casks, in buckets, and in pitchers to the secret cistern; while those who ought to have received it, wait in vain for the accustomed supply.

Such are the artifices of the thieves of water in Valencia. Watchmen, liberally paid, are employed to prevent the depredations of these people, who are severely punished in case of detection; but so imperious are the dictates of necessity, that nothing has yet been capable of putting a stop to their practices.

FABRICS AND MANUFACTURES.

In order to complete the sketch already given of the industrious character of the Valencians,

let us here introduce a few brief observations concerning their fabrics and manufactures.

We have already treated of the manufactures of earthen-ware and porcelain, and also those of the aloe, esparto, junco, palmitos, and alpargatas. We shall only mention by the way, the manufactures of soap and glass, the distilleries, the forges of iron and copper, the gypsum, lime, and barilla furnaces, the salt-works, paper-mills, &c. but we shall be so much the more circumstantial in respect to those of wool, linen, and silk.

The woollen manufactures employ a great number of hands in every part of Valencia, but chiefly in those districts where the climate is more inclement and the soil most ungrateful; and where this branch of industry is consequently carried on with the greatest advantage. Woollen stuffs of every kind are made at Villafrauca, Vistabella, Enguera, Ontiniente, Concentayna, Banneres, Onil, Ibi, Monora, &c.

The most considerable manufactories, however, are at Alcoy, which, with their dependent establishments at Benifallim, Bocayrent, Benisau, and Benillota, make up the greatest part of the wool of this country; * and their produc-

* The wool of Valencia is by no means of bad quality, and, though its exportation is prohibited, it is in particular request with the manufacturers of Languedoc.

tions are at least equal in quality to the middling kind of French cloths.

There are linen manufactories at la Mata, Vistabella, Adsaneta, Callosa, Muro, Bocayrent, Meliana, Cantes, Olleria, Villareal, Elda, Monora, and other places, where, very good stout cloth, of middling fineness, is afforded at three or four reals per ell. As the country-people of Valencia dress almost entirely in linen, the demand is consequently very considerable. For the supply of these manufactures, great quantities of hemp and flax are cultivated throughout the province.

As to the silk-manufactures, the number of looms employed by them in the capital amount to 3247, in Gandia, to 1000, and in the other parts of Valencia, to at least 1879. It is unfortunate, as we have already observed, that the people engaged in them are so far behind in respect to the method of reeling and twisting; otherwise the manufactures of this country would certainly be much more flourishing than they are.

Their plain taffetas and velvets, as also their flowered damasks, are nevertheless in high repute; and their clouded stuffs are preferred to any others.*

* The late Joachim Fox is said to have learned the secret

It is calculated that, in the city of Valencia alone, the silk manufactures employ 25,000 persons, who, as well as all others engaged in them throughout the province, are exempt from all levies, ordinary and extraordinary, for the military service.

TROVADORES.

Spain has also its *improvisatori*, who are not surpassed by those of Italy either in talents or celebrity. Persons of this description are met with in Biscay, but less frequently in the two wild unpoetic Castiles; they are more common in Extremadura, Andalusia, and the other southern provinces; but that in which they are by far the most numerous, is Valencia.

Here, since the ancient union of this country with Provence, a natural genius for poetry and music has been cherished and perpetuated; and in these romantic valleys, beneath this elysian sky, this spirit will probably never be extinguished.

of making them at Constantinople. The French manufacturers, however, are disposed to doubt that fact, and ascribe the superior quality of these stuffs solely to the water.

Go, in the evening, into any *venta* or *posada* you please in Valencia, and you are sure to find one of these *trovadores* with his harp or guitar. Here he sings a great number of popular songs, or pieces which he composes, extempore, according to the nature of the subject which is given him.

Such as treat of the tender passion give the greatest pleasure, and consequently are the most common. In these the mysteries of love are painted with such warmth of colouring, with such voluptuous imagery, as often excites the auditors to join in the *volero*, or even to indulge themselves with a gratification still more delicious.

All these songs are composed in the Valencian dialect, which is very easily learned by those who understand any thing of French or Italian.

The talents of these *improvisatori* are most eminently displayed in *decimas*, or little poetic pictures of ten lines. One of the auditors gives the *trovador* the last line, and he immediately composes the other nine, which must correspond with the other in subject, rhyme, and metre.

Though these *decimas* often contain nothing but pleasing tautologies, yet they are always

harmonious, and sometimes truly excellent in every respect.

The trovadores are held, by their countrymen, in all the consideration which their talents seem to deserve. They are generally employed to invite the guests to weddings, likewise as *memorialistas*, and in other capacities ; they are distinguished by their convivial manners, and by their easy, careless, poetic life.

THE FOUR SEASONS.

In the north the year is, in reality, only a succession of disagreeable seasons ; in the south, on the contrary, each season has its peculiar beauty, its characteristic charms. In the north the year passes amidst the incessant conflict of the elements ; in the south the seasons follow each other in the most pleasing rotation. But, if the enchanting poetic view of the varied seasons of the year acquires new charms in any country, it is in Valencia.

In general, in every latitude, January is the coldest and most inclement month in the year. In Valencia, however, it differs only in the decrease of heat to about forty-five degrees ; but this must be understood to apply only to the first half of the month, for, by the twenty-

fourth, the temperature rises to at least fifty-five degrees.

February arrives, and the almond-trees are covered with delicate rose-coloured blossoms. All the fields are clothed with young plants—the wheat begins to shoot forth its verdant stalks—and the orange-trees display their new luxuriant flower-buds, beside their golden fruit.

March appears, and the whole country exhibits the full bloom of vernal beauty. The warmth increases from sixty to sixty-four degrees, till at length some refreshing rain falls about the period of the equinox. By this time all the spring corn is sown; the young fruit is set on the almond and apricot-trees; and the winter corn flourishes in luxuriant beauty.

By the middle of April the influence of the sun begins to be more powerful, but the heat seldom rises above sixty-eight or seventy degrees. Now and then there are besides, gentle breezes from the north, which, in this latitude, are attended only with a refreshing coolness. The barley is already cut; each day produces new fruits, and continual watering gives increasing charms to all nature.

Such is the state of things till the middle of May, which is the commencement of the hot season, when the temperature is regularly from seventy-two to seventy-seven degrees. A mul-

titude of the most beautiful South American plants now flourish in all their magnificence; and from this period, the meadows are mown every eight days.

June succeeds—the power of the sun, the activity of nature, the beauty of vegetation, have now arrived at their height. The wheat harvest has already begun, and the more early southern fruits are to be had in abundance. The vines are already adorned with large clusters, and all the fields are covered with ripened crops.

In July and August the heat continues nearly the same, with scarcely any perceptible change of the barometer. The daily sea-breezes, the frequent but transient thunder-storms, cool the atmosphere, and augment the universal fertility. The fields, cleared of their produce, are already prepared for new crops, and almost all the autumnal fruits have attained perfect maturity.

In the middle of September, about the time of the equinox, the heat begins to decrease; some rain falls, and the atmosphere returns to the mild, enchanting temperature of the beginning of spring. The vintage is now finished; the crops of olives and algarrobas are gathered, and the winter-corn is already sown.

October exhibits the like charms, and passes

away amidst the same occupations. November resembles the warm delicious days of an Italian autumn. The wind blows very rarely from the north-east, which, however, produces but little change in the temperature of the air. The aspect of nature is enchanting; the foliage has, to be sure, assumed a dusky tint, but the sea and sky display unvarying beauty and magnificence.

December arrives, and the thermometer never falls lower than between fifty-four and fifty-seven degrees. By the end of the month you may pluck the violet, the primrose, and the narcissus; and the year ends with flowers, in the same manner as it began.

Such is the delightful rotation of the seasons in Valencia; such the varying aspects of an ever-youthful, ever-blooming, nature. Well might the Moors place their Paradise in this heavenly region; and the Greeks regard these shores as their enchanting Hesperia!

ALICANTE.

Alicante is situated at the extremity of a valley, open towards the sea, at the back of a small bay inclosed by two promontories.* It

* La Huerta and Santa Pola.

stands partly in the plain and partly on the declivity of Mount St. Julian. The streets are narrow and crooked, and, in a topographical point of view, the place is not worthy of notice. The population, however, is estimated at between nineteen and twenty thousand souls, and the whole city is a scene of bustle and activity.

Alicante contains a well-regulated poor-house, a military-school, and a naval-academy, opened in 1798. In respect to society, this city is a very agreeable place to live in, on account of the great number of foreigners who have settled there ; but the water is not of the best quality, and provisions are in general dear.

As to the commerce of Alicante, we shall reserve our observations on it for the general article on that subject. We shall, on the other hand, be so much the more circumstantial in the description of the Huerta, by which it is supplied with so many valuable articles.

The Huerta de Alicante, which begins at the distance of two miles above the city, extends about a league from east to west, and a league and a half from north to south. It forms a charming valley, inclosed on three sides by lofty picturesque mountains, and open only towards the city and the sea.

In this delicious huerta, vines, orange, lemon,

fig, almond, apricot, cherry, plum, apple, pomegranate, mulberry, and peach-trees, are seen forming the most beautiful intermixture; while the fields that lie between them are covered with grain, vegetables, pulse, and herbage of every kind. This huerta, whose population amounts to twelve thousand souls, is covered with innumerable villas, some of which are very magnificent, as, for instance, that of the Principe Pio, the Casa de Pelerin, &c.

An idea of the fertility of this charming valley may be formed from the following data. It produces, one year with another, two hundred and twenty-two thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight cantaros of wine, four thousand pounds of silk, fifteen thousand cahices of barley, two thousand five hundred cahices of wheat, two thousand six hundred cahices of almonds, twelve hundred arrobas of oil, one thousand arrobas of hemp, nine thousand arrobas of figs, fifteen thousand arrobas of other fruit, sixteen thousand arrobas of vegetables, one hundred and four thousand arrobas of barilla, and one hundred and thirty thousand arrobas of algarrobas.

This extraordinary fertility is partly to be ascribed to the richness of the soil; partly to the abundant supplies of water which it receives from the pantano described in a former article,

and the two draw-wells of St. Juan and Muchamiel; and partly to the inclosed situation of the valley, by which it is sheltered from all inclement winds.

In the severe seasons of 1788, 1792, and 1798, when the olive, almond, and carob trees throughout almost the whole province were destroyed by the cold, those trees were seen in the most flourishing condition in the huertas of Alicante, Gandia, and Valencia.

“ The land never rests,” says a traveller who some time since visited this country; * “ for no sooner has it rewarded the farmer with one crop than he begins to prepare it for another. In September he sows barley; and having reaped it about the latter end of April, or the first week in May, he immediately puts in maize, which comes off about the middle of September: but before this ripens, he puts in sandias (*cucurbita*, Linn.), or some other esculent, which yields him a third crop in the course of the same year. In November he sows wheat, and in June he reaps it.”

Flax is sown in September, or at the beginning of October, and hemp in April; the former is pulled in May, and the latter in August. Cucumbers, melons, garbanzos, lucern, sallad,

* Townsend's Travels in Spain, Vol. III.

pulse, &c. follow each other in uninterrupted succession; and every week brings a new species of fruit to maturity.

Unfortunately, however, a kind of epidemic fever prevails almost every autumn in this charming huerta. This disease, which some have ascribed to the eating of fruit to excess, is certainly owing to a different cause, and ought much rather to be attributed to the noxious exhalations of the neighbouring Albufera.*

The mortality at such times is very great, especially if, as is generally the case, there is a want of skilful physicians. It is, however, to be hoped, that as soon as political circumstances admit, the draining of the Albufera will be taken into serious consideration.

EXERCISES.

Notwithstanding all that is said concerning the indolence of the natives of the south, it seems in reality to be merely a consequence of their vicious government. How could we otherwise reconcile that propensity with the

* A lagoon situated at the southern extremity of the huerta, near the sea, and which in summer emits an intolerable stench.

utmost activity, the most animated motion of the muscular system, and with that fondness for violent exercises so common in the south? On the contrary, among the inhabitants of those happy regions, all is life and activity; every thing, even to their very diversions, announces energy and irritability.

Look, for example, at the people of Valencia. Notwithstanding the laborious rural occupations in which they are incessantly engaged, the most fatiguing exercises are mere play to them. The moments which the natives of the north devote to repose, or to motion of a gentle and passive kind, these ardent, indefatigable children of the south spend, merely for pastime, in the most active exercises.

The game at ball, which is played either in open places or in buildings appropriated to that purpose, is the most common and favourite diversion. The ball, eight or ten inches in diameter, is besmeared with grease, on which account the players are provided with wooden cases, full of notches for the hands. The dexterity of some of them is truly astonishing; and considerable bets often depend on the issue of the game.

Another very favourite exercise is slinging, in which the herdsmen, who keep their cattle and flocks in order by means of it, are particularly

clever. For this purpose they use round, smooth pieces of marble, and often place the mark at the distance of three or four hundred ells*. The slings are made of esparto; they are lined at the bottom with leaves of the aloe, and seem to bear a very close resemblance to those of the ancient Balearic islanders.

The other exercises of the Valencians are, foot-races, in the course of which they commonly contrive to have several ditches to leap over; bar-pitching, a kind of game at bowls with iron bars; the *regata*, or boat-fight, usual in the villages along the coast, especially at Benidorm; lastly, a kind of climbing-match, up a pole previously rubbed with soap; a diversion which may be seen, especially at Christmas, in almost every village.

Let the exercises of the native of the north be compared with these! If he has any, do they not betray all the indolence and apathy by which he is oppressed?

MINERAL SPRINGS.

Valencia has a great number of warm mineral springs, the most celebrated of which are

* From two hundred to two hundred and fifty yards.

those of Tooa, Altura, Aygues, Monovar, and Vilavella. None of them have yet been subjected to chemical analysis; they are nevertheless used with great advantage in gastric diseases and cutaneous affections, partly for bathing and partly for drinking. To the two last-mentioned places, in particular, the concourse of patients from all parts of the province is astonishing, though they are destitute of every accommodation; so that strangers are obliged to take with them even the most common articles of housekeeping.

At the same time it would cost but little trouble, and not more than three or four thousand piastres, to transform Monovar or Vilavella into a second Carlsbad. Hither, where nature does so much, and the genial climate facilitates every undertaking, the sick would flock from all the provinces of Spain; and here they might look forward with certainty to their recovery.

Some speculation of this kind would probably have been long since engaged in, if the nobility of the kingdom in general, and of Valencia in particular, knew how to manage and to improve their extensive possessions. So far from encouraging, directing, and seconding, the industry of their vassals, the nobles abandon their estates, and spend the greater part of

their lives at court. Slaves of their king and of their stewards, amidst their apparent opulence, they are often embarrassed for the sum of fifty piastres.

CARRETEROS.

The populousness of the country, the difficulty of gaining or bringing into cultivation any new lands, and the wandering disposition of the Valencians, appear to be the reasons why you meet with Valencian *carreteros* on almost all the great roads of Spain. They have light, high, two-wheeled carts, in general covered with bulrushes, lined with esparto, and drawn by three, four, and even five, mules.

With these vehicles the honest *carreteros* traverse the whole peninsula, from Bayonne to Cadiz, and from Badajoz to Perpignan. You can scarcely enter a *venta* or *posada* without finding some of these merry Valencians, with their white smock-frocks and creaking carts. In time of war, when the coasting-trade is prevented by the enemy's cruizers, the transportation of merchandize by these *carreteros* is particularly brisk.

Strangers who, from economical motives, or on account of botanical and mineralogical pur-

suits, have dealings with these honest people, find their charges extremely reasonable. For twelve piastres you may perform a journey of one hundred leagues, and have a large box carried into the bargain. If you please, the *carretero* will also furnish you with provisions, so that, on paying four or five reals a day, you are relieved from all trouble on that account.

The traveller must certainly be able to conform a little with the habits and dispositions of these people, in which case, he will have no reason whatever to find fault with them.* He will obtain a thorough acquaintance with the national manners, and escape all disputes with the *posaderos*. The *carreteros* of Valencia for ever! They are an honest hearty race, imbued with the genuine spirit of a Yorick.

TREASURE-HUNTERS.

Among the various traditions which have been handed down from the romantic times of

* He should not, however, forget to take with him a good mattress, not only that he may sit more at his ease, but likewise to sleep upon at night, which he will frequently have to pass in the open air. During nine months of the year, there cannot be a more cheap, convenient, and agreeable mode of travelling.

the Moors, the tales which relate to hidden treasures are the most remarkable. It is said that at the last expulsion of the Moriscos, in 1609, a great number of secret gold-mines were filled up, and many millions of gold and silver coins buried in the earth.

These are the treasures of which all the Valencians, and the mountaineers in particular, still speak with the greatest enthusiasm. There is not an old shaft in which a veiled virgin, or a knight in complete armour, has not from time to time appeared; there is not an ancient olive-grove in which is not now and then seen a dwarf with a silver horn, or a pigeon with a golden key.

From the clefts of mountains issues the sound of the implements of busy miners, and money is coined in the ruins of antique castles: flames are seen bursting from an ancient Moorish tomb, and adown the trunk of a venerable algarrobo descends a shower of golden fire.

It cannot appear surprising that, believing these absurd stories, the Valencian should so often engage in the search of hidden treasures. To this occupation the inhabitants of the mountains in particular, have an extraordinary propensity. Unsuccessful as these researches have hitherto proved, they have nevertheless materially contributed to the improvement of agriculture.

How many barren spots have been brought

into cultivation ! How many beautiful springs have been discovered in the course of them ! Ye simple honest mountaineers, who would snatch from you an illusion which renders you so happy and so industrious !

In these dreams of a romantic imagination we discover the mild and genial character of a southern clime. Instead of the terrific images of northern monsters, the horrors of a wild hyperborean fancy, here every thing is beautiful and tinged with a roseate hue ; every thing is smiling and replete with hope.

BEATERIO.

This is a foundation for females, situated near Liria, on an eminence, commanding a delicious view of the whole enchanting plain. It is endowed for fifteen unmarried women, who must be upwards of thirty at the time of their admission. They are not shackled by any monastic rules, or subject to any religious superior. They enjoy every liberty compatible with decency, and are even allowed to quit the Beaterio and marry, in which case a certain sum is paid them by way of dowry. For the rest, the Beaterio carries on a little trade in lace and confectionary, which are in high repute all over the country.

Happy Beaterio of Liria ! O that philanthropic institutions like thine were to be found in my native land ! How many unfortunate females, bereft of relatives and friends, destitute of fortune or the means of procuring a subsistence, have reason to dread the approach of age, accompanied by the horrors of indigence and misery !

Their sweetest sentiments met with no return ; their fondest hopes remained unaccomplished. Excluded from all the rights, all the privileges, all the occupations of the other sex, and confined by the men to the meanest, the most laborious, and the most unproductive of their own, these forlorn and despised beings are abandoned to grief, regret, misery, and despair, till death arrives, to put a period to their sufferings.

Man enters with confidence into the world and creates a sphere for himself. A thousand ways, a thousand resources, are open for him ; the whole system of civil society is formed for his tyrannic sex. But as for woman, oppressed and born to slavery—woman, circumscribed within the passive duties of domestic life—what is to become of her when her last hope is extinguished ?

Unfortunate beings, whose situation claims the tenderest sympathy ! Why have our legis-

lators paid so little attention to your lot? Why have they not founded asylums, where, protected from want, ye might become the mothers of orphan children, and at least pass the last days of your life in peace?—Why, alas! they were so totally occupied with metaphysical ideas, as to have no time for such considerations!

THUNDER-STORMS.

Scarcely a day passes in summer, in this country, without a thunder-storm. But let it not be supposed that they resemble the storms of our northern climes. No oppressive heat; no dense clouds overshadowing the hemisphere for a day together; no rain of many hours' continuance; no destructive whirlwind—by none of these phenomena are they accompanied.

The storm approaches; the wind springs up; a low cloud discharges a few drops; three or four peals of thunder quickly succeed each other; and it is all over. In an hour, nay, often in twenty or twenty-five minutes, the sky is again as serene as ever.

As to the danger, that is extremely small. The sea, the inlets, and canals, attract almost all the electric matter. Besides, has not St. Vincent banished lightning for ever from this

province? and who can doubt the efficacy of St. Barbara's intercession!

To these storms this country is assuredly indebted, not only, in a great measure, for its fertility, but also for the delicious temperature of the evenings in summer. They generally come on between three and four in the afternoon, so that they are entirely over by five. The blooming landscape then glistens in the rays of the evening sun, and a refreshing breeze wafts balsamic odours across the enchanting valleys.

In the winter months, as they are called, the thunder-storms are generally much more violent. In that season, especially in the nights of December, they are accompanied with wind and rain, and continue several successive hours. The whole sea then appears to be on fire, and woe to that vessel which approaches too near to the coast!

The trembling peasant shuts himself up in his cottage with his affrighted children, lights up tapers before the Madonna or St. Barbara, and looks with horror at the summits of the distant mountains, where the tall iron crosses are enveloped in brilliant coruscations.

The tempest, however, is soon over, and the sea and sky glow with the ruddy tints of Aurora. The sun rises, and all nature seems to smile in renovated beauty.

PEUAGLOSA.*

This is the highest mountain of the northern chain, situated near the frontiers of Arragon. Its elevation is estimated at about one thousand fathoms above the level of the sea, though the broad base of the range to which it belongs causes it to appear much less considerable.

The Peuaglosa is composed of lime-stone, in which are found a great quantity of petrefactions. Its loftiest peak is covered, during nine months of the year, with snow, and is almost always enveloped in fog. Nevertheless, the treasures which this mountain presents to the botanist, amply repay the trouble of an excursion thither in summer.

You may ascend the Peuaglosa from Adsaneta, and descend on the other side to Villa Hermosa. The road is at first excessively steep, and every where covered with loose stones: you likewise meet with great numbers of pines and other northern trees.

In about an hour and a half you reach the Santuario de San Juan Bautista, where it is common for visitors to stop. Every thing here

* Probably a corruption of Peuacolossal.

has the air of an Alpine convent, except that the temperature is milder, and the mountain more woody. At the same time, the ground is covered with violets, strawberries, and gentian, particularly about a limpid spring which rises at this place.

As you continue to ascend, the trees begin to grow smaller, and at length give place to heath and juniper. You soon find a great number of Alpine plants, and varieties of the cistus; the mountain herb-bennet (*geum montanum*), Pyrenean water-cresses (*sisymbrium Pyrenaicum*), the shrub-like cinquefoil (*potentilla fruticosa*), the brilliant fig-wort (*scrophularia lucida*), the peony (*pæonia officinalis*), &c. till you reach the summit, from which, in serene weather, you enjoy a view of the whole northern division of Valencia, and the south-eastern part of Arragon.

Here flourish, among other beautiful plants, a multitude of the finest geraniums, the mountain whitlow-grass (*draba alpina*), the heart-shaped blue daisy (*globularia cordiformis*), &c. among which you at length gradually descend to Villa Hermosa.

This road is tolerably commodious, and is rendered far more interesting than the other, by its numerous picturesque views and magnificent cascades. You find a great variety of

beautiful mountain-plants, among others the black hellebore (*helleborus niger*), with its rose-coloured blossoms, different species of bulrushes, &c. till at length you arrive at Villa Hermosa, where the eye embraces the whole northern chain.

Whoever would characterize the Peuaglosa in as few words as possible, might denominate it a southern Alp. No traveller will repent having ascended it, especially as he has no occasion to spend more than a day in the excursion.

SUPERSTITION.

Whole volumes have been written on superstition, but the authors seem to have forgotten that it is interwoven in the texture of the human heart. Fear and hope, weakness and ignorance—these are the causes of an illusion so natural and so consolatory.

In nothing is the soothing power of superstition so strongly exemplified, as the belief in the guardianship of saints. What can be more cheering and more encouraging to the heart of the sufferer, than to be able to rely with confidence, amid all the vicissitudes of life, on these friends and protectors! Happy are the en-

lightened who can do without them ; but truly wretched would be the poor, if deprived of this consoling idea.

In no country is this notion so general as in Spain, and especially in Valencia, where almost every saint has a particular function. Thus St. Roque protects from pestilence, and St. Anthony from fire ; St. Lucia is applied to in diseases of the eyes, and St. Blase in those of the throat. St. Nicholas is the patron of young marriageable females, St. Raymond of pregnant women, and St. Lazarus of those in labour. St. Casilda dispenses her aid in hæmorrhages, and St. Apollonia in tooth-ache. St. Augustin gives relief in dropsy, and the kind St. Barbara defends from lightning. In a word, there is no incident or circumstance, however trifling, but what has a saint expressly to superintend it.

The saints of this country perform a very important part among the Valencian coachmen. Each has his particular patron or patroness, whose image he constantly carries about him as a scapulary, and to whom he commends himself on every occasion.

Nobody is more grateful as long as the journey is prosperous, but woe to the saint if any mishap befalls his votary ; for the latter immediately flies in the face of his protector, and

discharges upon him the whole weight of his indignation for his negligence.

Bourgoing mentions an instance of this kind. His coachman had driven the carriage down a precipice. Full of rage, he tore the scapulary in pieces, and trod it under his feet, at the same time loading the respective saints with execrations, and wishing them in the lowest pit of hell. *Al demonio Santa Barbara ! A los diabolos San Francisco ! Al infierno nuestra Senora del Carme !* Thus all the saints whom he had been accustomed to invoke, received his maledictions in their turn, and all were severely reproached for their impotence, their treachery, or their inattention.

Another kind of superstition, very common in Valencia, is what they denominate *mal de ojos*, an expression which does not imply a disease of the eyes, but a bewitching by means of those organs.

Is it not singular that so baneful an influence should, in all ages, have been ascribed to the noblest and most beautiful organs of man? Let the origin of this notion be what it will, numberless expedients have been devised in Valencia, against the dangerous *mal de ojos*.

The most common way in which these people protect themselves from it, is by means of amu-

lets, and particularly by *manecillas*, or little ivory hands, paws of moles, and bunches of the herb clary. In cases of extreme necessity, an infallible remedy is to give a *fig*, as it is called, to the basilisk eye, and the charm is instantly dissolved. Great importance is attached to the position of the thumb between the fore and middle finger ; and in this manner it is represented in the above-mentioned *manecillas*, which are universally hung round the necks of children.

I shall add a few words concerning the *Diners de Bruixas*, or witches' pence, which you frequently hear talked of in Valencia. These are *helicites*, * which are found in great numbers, for example, at Ibi. Nevertheless, they are considered as lucky omens by the peasantry, and preserved with truly comic veneration. The passions and the absurdities of men have been the same in every country and in every age.

* *Lapides numismales*. These, as every body knows, are a kind of snail's shell, the whirls of which, and even the exterior ones, are so completely concealed, that the whole resembles a lens, and appears convex on either side.

MURVIEDRO.

Murviedro is a town containing about five thousand five hundred inhabitants, most of whom are employed in agriculture. It is situated at the distance of four leagues from Valencia and one from the sea, in an enchanting country, nearly on the spot where once stood the ancient Saguntum, whose history is known to every reader.

How many ruins of ancient Roman and Moorish grandeur here present themselves ! How many recollections of past ages are here revived ! How many witnesses attest the fragility of all human things !

The monuments of Roman magnificence first arrest our attention. Among these the theatre deserves particular notice. It was erected on the declivity of a hill, and was capable of accommodating nine thousand persons.

“ The ancient theatre of Murviedro,” says Bourgoing, “ is in such good preservation, that the gradations of the seats may yet be clearly distinguished. The lowest part, where we place the orchestra, was occupied by the magistrates ; above them were the seats for the knights ; higher up those for the other citizens,

and the uppermost were destined for the lictors and courtesans.

All these places, except the last, had separate entrances, of which the *vomitória*, or galleries by which the mass of the people departed, are still to be seen. The circumference of the amphitheatre is stated at four hundred and twenty-five feet, and the height, from the *orchestra* to the uppermost seats, at one hundred.

It seemed for some time as if the hand of time would be permitted to sweep away entirely these precious relics of ancient Roman grandeur, even after the representation of Dean Marti had procured a peremptory ordinance of the king in their behalf.

The *proscenium* was already covered with trees and cottages, the stage was transformed into a rope-walk, and the stones were even removed from some of the lower ranges of seats. At length, that excellent minister Aranda resolved to appoint a *commissario conservador* expressly for this purpose; and he has since fulfilled the duties of his office with great punctuality.

Besides the theatre there are many other Roman monuments at Murviedro, for example, the ruins of an ancient circus,* a temple of

* An orchard has been planted within this edifice, and

Bacchus, &c. which the spectator cannot contemplate without regret. Many a magnificent column is used for a water-pipe, many a slab of marble for grinding salt, and many a sepulchral stone which should have been transmitted with the greatest care to posterity, now forms part of the pavement of a goat-house.

The Moorish ruins, though not numerous, are not less remarkable. High above the ancient theatre rise the half-decayed walls and towers of an ancient castle ! What a striking contrast in the style of the architecture ! How many ages combined in a single point ! Such is man : such is the fate of his boasted works, and such the end of his short-lived magnificence ! Where are the generations which have lived and fought on this spot—which have here endured all the vicissitudes of pleasure and of pain ? Swallowed up in the abyss of time, scarcely has history preserved a few of their names.

Fortresses crumble into ruin, man returns to his native dust ; but nature, endued with everlasting energies, flourishes in the bloom of immortal youth. These wide-spreading olives, these prodigious algarrobos, once afforded shel-

the half demolished walls have been used for the foundation of a new inclosure.

ter to the ancient Moorish warriors ; and these stately aloes, these imperishable palmitos, have for ages covered their tombs. Here the hermit ought to have constructed his cell ; every surrounding object would have been a memento of human frailty.

JUGGLERS.

The reader is acquainted with the northern parts of the province of Valencia ; he knows that the inclement sky and the ungrateful soil have compelled the ingenious inhabitants to have recourse to a thousand new ways of procuring a subsistence. He will not therefore be surprized to find among them a number of jugglers, merry-andrews, rope-dancers, puppet-players, &c. who are in great repute for their arts throughout the whole peninsula.

Among the jugglers, the stranger must not indeed expect to find any Philidors ; but to the people of this country they appear absolute conjurors. This eats fire, and devours serpents ; that makes palms grow in a night-cap, and fries pancakes in a hat ; a third transforms painted frogs into living animals, and instantaneously converts water into wine. In short, the most common experiments of our Wiegleb and Rosenthal

may be seen repeated with considerable dexterity, to the astonishment of the ignorant multitude.

To these the tumblers and rope-dancers are very little superior. The spectator is obliged to be content with dexterity in them also, instead of skill. Those who are most distinguished in this respect are the puppet-show men, and the directors of dancing dogs and monkies.

The former now and then exhibit one of the ancient *autos sacramentales* with devils and angels, but in general a kind of *saynetes*, in the Valencian dialect, it is true, but full of wit and comic situations. The latter sometimes represent regular ballets, at others ludicrous imitations of foreign dances; and both these exhibitions frequently have a moral or a political tendency.

This was very commonly the case during the last war with France, and also at the introduction of any new country-dances. At the puppet-shows the spectator was amused with the whole history of the revolution, the guillotine, the national assembly, &c. of course with the necessary improvements; while the dancing dogs and apes were caricaturing the new-fashioned *petimetras* and *madamitas*,* *muscadins* and *incroyables*.

* A Spanish term of derision for ladies who affect to dress in the height of the fashion.

The former concluded with the air of the Marseillois, and the latter with the Carmagnole, which the directors of these exhibitions always accompanied with violent anti-gallican verses. It is not improbable that these representations may continue in vogue these twenty years, especially as the Valencians have never been very partial to the French.

Such are the jugglers, &c. of Valencia, whose art seems to be hereditary in their families, and who may be seen, in all their greatness, at the fairs and on such like occasions. Whoever travels among their mountains is sure to meet with numbers of these two or four-legged artists in almost every village.

ORANGE-TREES.

Orange-trees are here propagated either from seed or slips, both of which methods have their advantages and their disadvantages.

Orange-trees raised from seed attain a much greater size and age than the others*; but their growth is much slower, and the quality of their fruit is very inferior. Those raised from slips

* They generally grow to the height of twenty-five feet, and live to the age of eighty or ninety years.

shoot up, on the contrary, much more rapidly, and yield exquisite fruit ; but they are always much smaller, and die as early as their twentieth or twenty-fifth year.

As speedy profit is the only object of the Valencians, they prefer, in general, the latter method. We shall give a brief description of both ways, beginning with the former.

To raise orange-trees from seed, the land is dug or ploughed up to the depth of a foot at least, and is divided into beds from nine to twelve feet in breadth. In these are made little holes, two inches deep, and a foot and a half asunder ; and into each are dropped three or four pippins. This operation must be performed at the beginning of summer ; and a well-manured soil, composed of sand and marl, must be chosen for the purpose.

Here the plants are suffered to grow till they have attained the height of four or five inches. The strongest and most healthy only is left in each hole, and the ground is carefully watered as before. In this manner you obtain, in four or five years, a number of excellent young trees, which may be then transplanted and grafted about the eighth year.

With respect to the second method, that of raising orange-trees by means of suckers, it is those of lemon-trees that are generally taken for

stocks, because they thrive better, and are subject to fewer accidents. They are planted in the three spring months, about a foot and a half asunder, in a soil that has previously been well watered; and, at the time of planting, they are at least six inches in length.

Here they are kept carefully watered, till they have grown to be about an inch thick. They are then grafted about four or five inches above the ground, and are left in the same place till the succeeding January, February, or March, when they are transplanted at the distance of twelve or fourteen feet from each other.

Their growth, if well watered, is now very rapid, till, in their eighth year at the latest, they have attained the height of ten feet, and are twenty feet in circumference. Unfortunately they begin to decay so early as their twelfth or fourteenth year, and die in the twentieth or twenty-fifth at latest.

The Valencians, nevertheless, give the preference to this method, since it affords them a much greater profit. The produce of each of these orange-trees is, upon an average, six reals, from which one third at most must be deducted for expences. As the intervening spaces may be occupied by all sorts of pulse and culinary vegetables, the cultivation of the orange-tree must consequently be very lucrative.

As sickly and diminutive as the orange-trees reared in our hot-houses appear, so vigorous and luxuriant do they grow in southern climes, replete with all the glowing energies of life. Covered almost incessantly with blossoms and with fruits, they here shew themselves in all the perfection of Hesperian beauty, and impregnate every breeze with their delicious perfumes.

ARGELINOS.

We have already had occasion to observe, that previous to the peace concluded with the states of Barbary in 1785, the coasts of Spain were continually exposed to the depredations of the Algerines, or as they are here called, *Argelinos*; and that the sentinels and signal frigates stationed on the coast, and in short all the measures adopted by government, proved incapable of preventing their incursions.

The Algerine corsairs, it is true, have ever distinguished themselves by their craft and their audacity. Sometimes they disguised their xebecs like merchantmen, and hoisted the flag of some European nation, not unfrequently even that of Spain: at others, three or four in company boldly sailed under their own flag to

the Spanish coast : now they would lie in wait for vessels behind some promontory ; and now again they would venture to attack frigates belonging to the royal navy.

The same was the case in respect to their descents, from which the inhabitants were not for a month secure. At one time they approached the shore by stealth, especially in tempestuous nights, and in flat-bottomed boats ; at another, they made good their landing by open violence. Here they deceived the sentinels stationed on the coast by false attacks ; there they fell upon them like ferocious tigers. Sometimes they merely plundered the villages on the coast ; at others, they made incursions for several leagues into the country. On these occasions, they seldom failed to carry off a number of the inhabitants as slaves, and afterwards demanded prodigious sums for their ransom.

Accordingly, to the unfortunate inhabitants of the coast, nothing was an object of such terror as one of these Algerine corsairs ; nothing was so alarming as the well-known cry : *Moros ! Moros en tierra ! Moros ! Arma ! Arma !*—the universal signal for despair.

It is easy to conceive how agreeable the peace of 1785 must have been to the harassed inhabitants of this country, even though it was purchased, after the ineffectual bombardment of

the preceding year, at the rate of fourteen millions of reals. Since that period, they may apply themselves without danger to the pursuits of agriculture, the fisheries, and the coasting-trade; they may sleep peaceably in their cottages, and see the Algerine flag flying upon their shores without terror.

I shall here add a few words concerning the pantomimes, representing battles, common in the south of Spain, and the origin of which is to be sought in the former conflicts with the African pirates. They are very generally performed in the villages on the coast, on certain important national events, such as the accession of a new sovereign, the proclamation of peace, and other occasions of a like nature.

One of these pantomimes represents a regular battle between the pirates and the inhabitants of the coast, between the Moors and the Christians. The former, in their boats, are stationed at some distance from the shore; the latter are posted in detachments between the watch-towers along the coast. The pirates are suddenly descried from the *atalayas*, and instantly the Christians advance to oppose their landing.

The corsairs approach; the Spaniards point their cannon; and a tremendous fire is opened on both sides. The corsairs soon leap on shore;

the Spanish troops are obliged to give way, and retreat, in the greatest disorder, to their entrenchments.

From all sides is heard nothing but the cry of alarm; *Moros! Moros! en tierra! Moros! Moros! Arma! Arma!* Meanwhile one detachment of the enemy, after another, penetrates to the entrenchments. These the christians are on the point of abandoning, when suddenly the Blessed Virgin appears, with the great standard of Spain.

At this sight the trembling christians are inspired with new courage: *A ellos! A ellos! La Virgen nos assiste!** resounds from all sides amidst shouts of joy. The christian columns again advance; the corsairs are overpowered: some are hurled into the sea, the rest are made prisoners; and, in a few minutes, the Spaniards obtain the most complete victory.

This is followed by a triumphal procession, in which the captive pirates are presented to the ladies of the place. These intercede for them, and they are transformed into christians. The whole concludes with a supper and ball, which at least are not deficient in southern merriment and gaiety.

* “Forwards! Forwards! The Virgin assists us!”

LA SANTA FAZ.

This village, containing, at the utmost, two hundred inhabitants, and situated nearly in the centre of the Huerta de Alicante, received its name from the holy handkerchief with the impression of our Saviour's face (*Santa Faz*) which is preserved there.

This handkerchief, which originally belonged to St. Veronica, after many peregrinations recorded in the legend, fell into the hands of a poor Spanish ecclesiastic, who took it along with him, on being appointed rector of this village, at that time called San Juan. Unacquainted with the value of this sacred relic, he left it in an old box, into which he threw many other articles of dress.

The holy handkerchief, however, knew better than this ignorant sinner, to what elevation it might justly aspire. Scarcely had the rector turned his back, before it made its way through the other garments, and took its place at the top, to which it had so fair a right and title.

In vain did the rector, a few days afterwards, again push it under the other clothes. Resolved to maintain its rights, it soon regained the post of honour.

A second time the rector found it in this situation, and indignantly thrust it down to the very bottom of the box. Suddenly—O miracle sufficient to convert the most obstinate heretic!—the holy handkerchief threw aside the clothes in every direction—flew up to the cieling—and, at the same time, declared itself to be the identical handkerchief worn by our blessed Lord and Saviour.

The good parson was thunder-struck, and soon set about making amends for his fault. He exhibited it publicly in the church, built a chapel for its reception, and even gave to the village the name of this precious relic.

From that moment, one miracle after another has been wrought by the holy handkerchief; and it has always manifested its efficacy in a particular manner in great drought. The impression of the face, it is true, appears somewhat smaller than on the other handkerchiefs preserved at Rome, Oviedo; and Jaen; but it has been proved that it is sometimes larger, and at others smaller, and that in this instance it is at least as large as in those above-mentioned. Let due honour then be paid to the sacred handkerchief, be it ever so old, and the impression ever so imperceptible!

MINERALOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

In the mountains of Valencia are found the following metals :—

Iron at Fredas and la Pobla ; the mines have been neglected for upwards of a century—at Forcall, in the Muela de Miro ; mine not wrought :—at Castlefort, badly wrought :—at Onda, in the Sierra de Espadan, not wrought :—at Cauaret, not wrought :—at Chulilla, not wrought :—at Ayodar, not wrought :—between Rotova and Marchuquera, not wrought.

Cobalt, at Ayodar, but the mine has been entirely neglected.

Copper, likewise at Ayodar, but not wrought.

Quicksilver, between Aetana and Eslida, on Mount Créuta. The mine had been neglected for many centuries, but at length, in 1793, it was again opened. From the analysis of its ore, it was found that one hundred pounds contained thirteen of quicksilver, twenty-one of copper, eighteen of sulphur and arsenic, and $\frac{1}{128}$ of silver. The mine is nevertheless said to have been again given up since 1796.

Lead, at Yelto. These mines were wrought

only from 1775, to 1779, and nobody ever thought of analyzing the ore.

The mountains of Valencia likewise contain quarries of marble and alabaster, of which we have already treated; beds of coal, for instance, at Pobla, Vallibona, in the Peuaglosa, &c. which begun to be wrought only four or five years since; besides innumerable quarries of gypsum, in the above-mentioned places, and in others, the produce of which forms a considerable branch of commerce.

These details are certainly meagre, but unfortunately, mineralogy and the working of mines are subjects to which very little attention indeed is paid in Spain. How multifarious are the treasures which are here yet unexplored, or which nobody knows how to turn to any account! What riches, what resources, are here doomed perhaps to everlasting neglect!

HERMITAGES.

There are in Valencia several hermitages, the situations of which are in general admirable, and the views they command are enchanting. *Hermitas* of this kind are to be met with near Murviedro, Raba, Benidorm, and other places,

which for centuries have scarcely ever been uninhabited.

One of the most agreeable of these hermitages is that situated near Murviedro, on a lofty mountain, where the ruins of an ancient Moorish fortress are still to be seen. Here, in 1725, a poor French ecclesiastic, who had long resided in the east, fixed his abode. He repaired the cottage, enlarged the little garden, and planted around it a row of beautiful plane-trees. The good-natured inhabitants of Murviedro supplied him with provisions, for which, with streaming eyes, he repaid them with benedictions.

Another very pleasant hermitage stands on the rock of Xabra, from which, in clear weather, the coast of Minorca may be discerned. Here, till the year 1790, resided an aged recluse, whose origin and country were totally unknown, but who was generally taken for a German. He went by the name of old Martin, had lived upwards of forty years on his mountain, appeared to be nearly one hundred years old, and was revered by the people of the country almost as a saint. Six years before his death, he was so strong as to be able to ascend the mountain, which is pretty steep, without assistance. He died on New-Year's Day, 1791, when the temperature had suddenly fallen to 50°.

A third hermitage, near Benidorm, is inhabited by an old Irish sailor, who, for the last twenty-five years, has never descended from his rock. On account of his great experience in respect to the course of the tunnies, he is venerated as an oracle, and supplied with abundance of provisions. According to his observations, the tunnies always approach the coast in parallel lines.

All these hermitages are small huts, neatly constructed of clay or the bark of trees, and in general covered only with esparto or palm-branches. Around them are planted algarra-bos, fig, orange, or almond-trees; the interval being occupied by a small kitchen garden, which is in general provided with a spring. The whole breathes a tranquillity, a silence, a seclusion which cannot fail to produce a deep impression on every visitor.

But in what country, and beneath what sky, could the life of a hermit be more pleasant and more comfortable? Where could the world and all its illusions be more easily forgotten; where could the unhappy mortal who is determined to bid adieu to it, recline his weary head more softly to court repose than in Valencia?

COMMERCE AND HARBOURS.

In the consideration of the commerce of the province of Valencia, we must in the first place make a distinction between the internal and the foreign trade.

The internal commerce must be subdivided into the trade of the various provincial districts with each other, and with the neighbouring provinces. Both of these are carried on either by land, by means of *arrieros*, or by coasting vessels.

To begin with the commerce of the different provincial districts—the northern supply the southern with timber, earthen-ware, linen and woollen stuffs, esparto, brandy, cattle, &c. while the latter send to the former corn, fish, the commodities of the Levant, silk, algarrobos, &c. The western part furnishes salt, and the eastern rice and vegetables. In a word, there is a continual exchange between the different districts.

As to the internal commerce with the neighbouring provinces, rice, silk, the fruits of the south, fish, &c. are exchanged with Castile and Arragon for corn, wool, and cattle. In like manner, flax, hemp, silk, oil, rice, soap, &c. are sent to Murcia and Granada, and in return Va-

lencia receives part of the productions of those provinces, such as wines, southern fruits, esparto wares, either for its commerce with the Balearic islands, or for exportation to foreign countries.

With respect to its foreign commerce, Valencia chiefly exports the following productions: southern fruits, oil, wine, barilla, soda, pilchards, esparto, salt, silk, &c. to Italy, England, France, Holland, the northern states, and South America; and receives in exchange corn, salt-fish, ship-timber, pitch, tar, iron, and fine linens. This foreign trade is carried on from the ports of Alicante, Valencia, Vinaroz, Benicarlo, Murviedro, and Guardamar, whose shares in it must naturally be very different.

The first in rank is Alicante, where a great number of foreign commercial houses are established, and which is likewise the residence of all the foreign consuls. The business transacted here is prodigious, and, during nine months in the year, almost all the flags of Europe may be seen at once in the port of Alicante.

Thus, for instance, in 1795, which was a very good year, the following articles were shipped here:---saffron 5306 pounds; aniseed 6975 arrobas; almonds without shells 14,410 arrobas; raisins 1880 arrobas; figs 1123 arrobas; cummin 408 arrobas; liquorice-root 173 arrobas; wine and brandy above 17,000 cantaros of

each ; oranges and lemons about 1,800,000 ; barilla 1800 tons ; soda 1500 tons ; cinnabar and alum 350 tons ; olive-oil 972 arrobas, &c.

The commerce of Valencia is not so considerable. It is almost entirely confined to the exportation of wine and brandy to North and South America ; esparto and fruit to Italy, England, France, and Holland ; hemp for the fleet at Carthagená ; and silks to America.

Nothing is shipped at the ports of Murviedro, Benicarlo, and Vinaroz, except wine and brandy ; but the quantities of these commodities exported to England, France, and the north are prodigious.

Lastly, the little port of Guardamar is chiefly used for the shipping of salt, from the works of la Mata, large cargoes of which are carried away by Dutch, Danish, and Ragusan vessels.

The total value of the exports of Valencia was estimated thirty years since by the celebrated Cavanilles at ten millions of piastres. The modern calculation of twelve millions cannot therefore appear at all exaggerated.

Thus also in respect to the total value of all the productions of the province ; if it was computed by Cavanilles at thirteen millions of piastres, it cannot be thought too high to rate the present amount at fifteen or sixteen millions.

What are the results from a comparison of these data? In the first place that at least five-sixths of the productions of Valencia are profitable articles of commerce; and, secondly, that the agriculture, and likewise the trade of the province have been progressively improving for the last thirty years.

So much for the different ports in respect to their commerce; let us subjoin a few words concerning their hydrography. The harbour of Alicante is good and safe; the largest ships may ride at anchor there with the greatest convenience. The ports of Murviedro, Benicarlo, Vinaroz, &c. are only fit for small vessels, so that those of larger size are obliged to remain in the roads. Lastly, the harbour of Valencia---but on this subject we must be rather more circumstantial.

The harbour of Valencia was one of the worst and most insecure of any in the kingdom, till at length in 1792, it was resolved to take steps for its improvement. The merchants and manufacturers voluntarily subscribed a considerable sum; the bank of St. Charles advanced five millions of reals on the security of the tolls to be collected for entrance; and the government gave upon paper a large sum towards the accomplishment of the plan.

The undertaking was begun in March, 1792,

and was prosecuted with great zeal till August, 1794. Notwithstanding the prodigious difficulties which were encountered, the success of the design seemed perfectly sure. Already was there a foot and a half of water; already were the first coffers sunk with equal good fortune and solidity, when all at once the impolitic war with France produced a total want of money.

The works were suspended, or were continued at intervals, and with extreme negligence; in short, in four years they had scarcely been advanced forty fathoms. The tempests of winter have, besides, destroyed two of the last coffers, so that the completion of the whole appears nearly problematical.

The plan, it must be acknowledged, appears extremely judicious. The flat, open beach is to be converted into a secure harbour, which is intended to be eighteen feet in depth, and to be surrounded in the form of an irregular semicircle, with magnificent quays. The entrance is designed to be nine hundred *varas*, or about two thousand five hundred feet in breadth. The whole was under the direction of Don Manuel Mirallas, a pupil of Don Thomas Munoz, celebrated for the works which he executed at the port of Cadiz.

But let us conclude these hydrographic observations, and rather contemplate the beauty of

these waters. Vernet, the immortal Vernet, has not painted any northern port. He was a native of Provence, and was acquainted with all the charms of a southern sea.

What an enchanting variety of inimitable colours ! 'Tis hither you must come to behold all the magical effect of maritime scenery ; and after you have once visited these shores, you will never think of them but with regret.

DRESS.

If some speculating engraver were to take it into his head to publish a collection of the costumes of the different nations of the globe, the contrasts exhibited in it would certainly be highly interesting. Here a couple of Kamtschadales, and there another of Valencians, would present the best personification of winter and spring that can possibly be devised.

Every body knows the Kamtschadale wrapped up in his furs ; now look only at this Valencian. His thin, loose doublet, his short linen breeches, which scarcely cover his knees, his half stockings, his hempen shoes---his whole light, spruce, airy figure, the very image of spring.

Place a female Valencian, beside her Kamtschadale sister lost in a load of garments. Who

can behold without transport those light, lovely nymphs, with their charming corsets, their short petticoats and small floating aprons, adorned with flowers of the orange and acacia !

Sweet, enchanting creatures, whose dress is the best emblem of your amiable character, of your paradisiacal country, of your Hesperian sky ! Thrice happy the mortal who can gain your love !

Both sexes here are principally distinguished by the cleanliness and neatness of their dress. Their favourite colour is white, and the stuffs in common use are cotton and linen. In full dress, however, the men wear a doublet of black or blue velvet, and the women a green or rose-coloured spencer.

But what renders the costume of the females so attractive, so enchanting, so elegant, so unique, so inimitable, is that southern grace, delicacy, and vivacity, which here seem to be conferred by nature on them all, down to the very meanest country girl.

GANDIA.

The most beautiful and fertile portion of Valencia is the district of Gandia, about two leagues in length, and nearly the same in

breadth. It winds along the open coast, and is surrounded on the land-side by mountains. It is watered by the small rivers Alcoy and San Nicolas, and exhibits the appearance of one vast, magnificent garden.

Nearly in the centre of this paradise, about seven leagues from Valencia, is situated the handsome little town of Gandia, the population of which is computed at five thousand souls. The environs, as far as the declivities of the mountains, contain twenty villages and hamlets, with at least four thousand inhabitants; so that this small district is one of the most populous in Spain.

But in no part of the kingdom is the climate more mild, the soil more fertile, and agriculture more productive than in Gandia. Here every thing arrives at maturity three or four weeks earlier than in the huerta of Valencia itself: here every thing yields fifty, and even one hundred fold; and here every thing flourishes in the greatest perfection.

To enter into some details, we shall observe, that, one year with another, 56,800 pounds of silk, 6,950 cahices of wheat, 17,250 cahices of maize, 13,650 arrobas of oil, 100,700 arrobas of algarrobas, and 4,300 cantaros of wine, are raised in this district. It likewise produces

melons, to the annual value of 4,500 piastres ; pomegranates, 1000 piastres ; other southern fruits, 1,900 piastres ; and vegetables, 3000 piastres.

Besides their industry in agriculture, the inhabitants of Gandia are likewise distinguished for their silk manufactures, upwards of a thousand looms being employed in this district. To these must be added a great number of small articles of esparto, cotton, &c. ; so that nothing but activity reigns throughout the canton.

Whoever would wish to spend his days in this beautiful part of Spain ought to select Gandia in preference for his abode. Climate, soil, and every natural advantage, conspire to render it the most interesting, agreeable, and fertile portion of Valencia. No great capital would be required for the execution of such a plan. Three or four thousand piastres, laid out in the purchase of land, would make you one of the most opulent inhabitants of Gandia.

LANGUAGE.

Since the ancient connection between Valencia and the southern parts of France, the language in common use here is a kind of *patois*, which, upon the whole, resembles that of Li-

mousin, but varies a little in the different districts.

To shew the affinity of this patois to French, we shall subjoin a few specimens :—

<i>Valencian.</i>	<i>French.</i>
Deu	Dieu
Vida	Vie
Anim.....	Ame
Any	An
Mon.....	Monde
Cel.....	Ciel
Genol	Genou
Moli	Moulin
Fulle.....	Feuille
Pare.....	Pere
Mare.....	Mere
Clau.....	Clef
Fam.....	Faim
Llum.....	Lumière
Pa.....	Pain
Vi.....	Vin

Not less striking is the similarity of construction, which, with the exception of a few Spanish idioms, seems to be absolutely French. Whoever then understands something of the latter, or of Italian, will in a month become tolerably acquainted with the language of Valencia.

This patois, especially when spoken by fe-

males, is extremely soft and harmonious. *Niu-rola ! Mociqvio ! Chiqviovio ! Racarilla !** The reader must be sensible of the sweetness of these sounds. *Ven con tu corill quevidiqvio* †! Who could resist this invitation from the lips of a pretty Valencian female ?

Universally as this patois is spoken throughout the whole province, most of the inhabitants, and even those who live in the country, understand the genuine Spanish, *el Castiliano*. They may, however, be easily known by their lisping and peculiar pronunciation of the letters *c* and *z*, *r* and *l*, and likewise by certain Valencian expressions and idioms, with which, as may naturally be supposed, their language is intermingled.

* IMPOSTS.

These are divided into royal and manorial. The former are very inconsiderable, and are confined to what is here called the equivalent, which is a very moderate tax on income ‡ : the

* My dear ! my babe ! my little one ! my darling !

† Come with thy sweetheart, my dear !

‡ Valencia is not subject to the *sisas* or the *millones*, or in general to the oppressive *rentas provinciales*, which are exacted in the provinces belonging to the crown of Castile.

latter are more oppressive than in any other province of Spain.

They consist in the appropriation in kind, sometimes of a fifth or sixth, at others even of one fourth or one third of the whole produce of the toil of the industrious husbandman. To this must be added a great number of privileges, or rather of usurpations, such as privileged presses, ovens, shops, and posadas, which are likewise extremely oppressive.

The origin of these barbarous rights, in this as in every other country, must be sought in the ancient feudal system. After the conquest of Valencia in 1238, the kings of Arragon divided the lands of this province among their nobles, who assumed the right of taxing their vassals, most of whom were Moors, at their own discretion.

The total expulsion of the Moors, in 1609, which the landed proprietors were unable any longer to prevent, produced no alteration in the system of imposts. As the proprietors could procure abundance of new colonists from the neighbouring provinces, the conditions on which they granted lands were entirely to their own advantage ; they stipulated for the continuance of most of the former contributions ; and all the favour which they shewed the new comers

consisted in a few trifling alleviations during the first years of their establishment.

And what is the consequence of this vicious system? The farmer of this country, notwithstanding the fertility of the soil and his own indefatigable exertions, is never able to acquire a decent competence; and if compared with the other inhabitants, he is found, contrary to all expectation, to belong to the poorest and the most dependent class.

Can it then be surprizing, that, weary of such oppression, he should more than once have risen against the nobility and the landed proprietors in general, and should have demanded the abolition of their rights, which might with more propriety be denominated unjust usurpations?

These violent attempts we may be allowed to deplore, but shall never undertake to justify. Should, however, a revolution break out at some future period in Spain, these oppressions will, doubtless, furnish the first occasion for it. The events of 1802 are still fresh in the recollection of every reader. The government took the greatest pains to conceal them; for they were of a much more serious nature than is generally supposed.

SAN NICOLAS.

St. Nicholas, archbishop of Myra, who died in the year 326 of the Christian era, is venerated in this country as the patron of all young females who are desirous of being married.

And what saint could be better adapted to this office than this same benevolent San Nicolas, who once restored a dead bridegroom to the arms of his mourning bride ; and who on another occasion gave a dowry to the daughters of a poor gentleman, and in their sleep into the bargain.

This is the San Nicolas, whose festival is here celebrated with much ceremony by all the young females of this country who are anxious for husbands. Garlands and nosegays, cakes, and fruit are consecrated to him in profusion ; a thousand promises, a thousand vows are made ; but of these sports we must give a more circumstantial description.

My countrymen need not be reminded of the superstitious rites practised by the youthful females of the Catholic states of Germany, for the purpose of making that most important of all discoveries—who is to be their husband. The curiosity and the desires of the sex are

every where alike; accordingly, many experiments of the same kind are made in Valencia.

There, uttering certain magic words, they will sometimes open three pods of algarrobas, the first and last seed of which are of great import. At others, pigeons' feathers are blown into the air, the slower or more speedy descent of which is a very significant omen.

On other occasions smooth pieces of marble are thrown into a bason, and from the sound they determine the longer or shorter period that is to elapse previous to their marriage, and God knows how many circumstances besides. Sometimes the girls go at midnight to the beach, and sit down with their backs to the sea, up to the hips in water, that they may discover their future husband at the bottom. But who can relate all the contrivances which the curiosity and ardour of the Valencian fair have invented!

Happy San Nicolas! most powerful promoter of matrimony; the favourite, the confidant, and the idol of all the youthful females of Spain! Continue to exercise thine enviable office amidst the acclamations of thy votaries, and then send them triumphant to thy worthy colleague San Raymundo.*

* The patron of pregnant women.

CHIVA.

This is a village with 3,200 inhabitants, six leagues from the frontiers of Castile, where the beautiful valley of Valencia commences. The soil is so fertile that this place annually raises 2,400 pounds of silk, 125,000 cantaros of wine, 15,000 arrobas of raisins, 50,000 arrobas of oil, 2,500 cahices of wheat, 70,000 arrobas of algarrobas, &c.

Chiva is celebrated for the salubrity of its air, and the excellence of its water, for which reason it is the summer resort of a great number of sickly, and especially consumptive persons. Upon the whole, you may live very agreeably and very cheap in this pretty village; only the months of January and December are in general rather wet.

Three leagues from Chiva, towards the frontiers of Castile, is the *Venta del Relator*, and the latter is at the same distance from Requena, the last village of Valencia.

This place, situated in the midst of the mountains called the Cabrillas, was formerly the abode of a numerous banditti. They were composed of criminals who had made their escape from the prisons of Carraca and Carthagená; murderers

or deserters who were prevented from passing the frontiers into France ; sailors who had run away from the service—in a word, the scum of all the provinces of the kingdom.

In order to cross the frontiers, it is necessary to pass a *puerto*, or defile, bordered on either side with lofty rocks covered with wood. Here the robbers were accustomed to station themselves, and woe to the unfortunate traveller who fell into their hands ! It is a fact, that in the year 1793 alone, nearly fifty persons were murdered in these mountains.

The government seemed long to have regarded these atrocities with indifference. At length, in 1796, parties were sent out to scour the country in all directions. From all the frontiers detachments of light dragoons advanced to Reqvena ; the robbers were surrounded on all sides in their retreats, and dispatched without farther ceremony.

The energetic measures, and likewise the stationing of corps on the frontiers, were attended with the most salutary consequences. You may now traverse the whole province in perfect security ; that is, if you take care to provide yourself with regular passes.

PIGEONS.

On almost every house in Valencia there is a *palomar*, or dove-cote,* in some of which may be seen thousands of pigeons of every kind and of every colour.†

Of these the *Raza pigeons* (*Columba tabellaria* of Linnæus) are the most remarkable for their attachment to their home ; a quality which has given rise to the *trials*, as they are called, and has occasioned them to be made use of as couriers.

The raza-pigeon in general returns to its home not only from a distance of ten or twelve leagues, but even after an interval of two or three years. As this instinct, however, is not equally strong and permanent in all, this circumstance has given occasion to a number of

* These dove-cotes are small quadrangular towers of different height and dimensions, which are built on the flat roofs, and are often fitted up with great elegance.

† The fecundity of the pigeons of this country is astonishing. They produce from twenty-two to twenty-four pair of young ones a year. It has been observed that they lay their two eggs in less than twenty-four hours, and sit in spring and summer fifteen or sixteen days, in autumn and winter, twenty or twenty-one. They continue to lay till they are twelve, fourteen, and even twenty years old.

trials, as they are here called, on which considerable wagers are laid, and which are a subject of universal interest and enthusiasm.

These trials are made in the following manner: two persons furnish a like number of pigeons, four weeks old. These are put into a separate dove-cote, where they are supplied with an abundance of food, and are left perfectly quiet for four or five days.

Scarcely have they become a little used to their new habitations, when they are daily driven out for some hours by force, and this practice is continued for a fortnight. They are then carried to the distance of a league in a cage, where they are all at once set at liberty, and thus their instinct is put to the proof. The person of whose pigeons the greatest number find their way home is naturally the winner. If the numbers should prove equal, the same exercises as before are repeated for a few days, and preparations are made for a second trial. In case this should not prove decisive, the same mode of proceeding is recurred to for the third, fourth, and even fifth time, but always at greater distances, and often as far off as twelve leagues. The dangers from birds of prey cannot make any difference, as the pigeons of one party are exposed to them equally with those of the other.

Another kind of trial is made with whole flights, and even in the midst of the cities. To this end, two neighbours drive out at the same time all their pigeons, so that they cannot fail to be intermingled. To increase the confusion, both parties, assisted by their neighbours, make all the noise they can by clapping their hands, rattling, shouting, and firing guns; by which the two flights are thoroughly mixed with each other, and almost every pair is dispersed and separated.

Now comes the moment for the trial and the decision of a thousand wagers. When the confusion of the two flights is at the highest, each proprietor suddenly recalls his birds to their cote with the usual signal.

The whole cloud of pigeons is now seen wheeling round and round, and separating at first into small groups, that gradually form two large bodies, each of which repairs to its accustomed habitation.

As some of the birds belonging to either one or the other division are always slower or less sagacious than the rest, one of the owners cannot fail to lose. Such of his pigeons as find their way into his neighbour's cote must be redeemed before the end of twenty-four hours, at the rate of twelve quartos apiece; or they are considered as good prizes.

With respect to the carrier-pigeons, the mode of proceeding is nearly the same as in the east. Round the right leg of one of these raza-pigeons, trained for the purpose, is rolled a billet folded up into a narrow slip, and the bird is set at liberty. She flies straight home with incredible velocity,* suffers herself to be caught without difficulty, and in two or three days is carried back to her former station.

On important occasions these carrier-pigeons are sometimes of great utility. In the last war, for example, short dispatches were now and then transmitted by this conveyance.

MONEY, MEASURES, WEIGHTS.

MONEY.

The common Spanish coins, as well as the imaginary monies, are reckoned in Valencia according to a totally different scale; namely, by *Libras*, *Reales*, *Sueldos*, and *Dineros*, the proportions of which are as follow :—

* One of these messenger-pigeons commonly flies a distance of seven or eight leagues (24 to 28 miles) in the space of between 43 and 50 minutes.

One libra of Valencia is equal to 10 reals of Valencia.

One real 2 sueldos

One sueldo 12 dineros

One dinero 1 Spanish ochavo

It may, perhaps, be necessary to observe that none of the above, except the dineros, are a real coin, and are in fact the common Spanish ochavos; and secondly, that a libra of Valencia may be estimated at three shillings and nine-pence sterling.

According to the above scale the value of the real Spanish coins is calculated as follows.

GOLD COINS.

	Libras.	Real.	Sueld.	Din.
1. Doblón of 8 escudos or quadruple (<i>Uncia de Oro</i>), valued at 16 piastres	$21\frac{1}{4}$	$212\frac{1}{2}$	425	5440
2. Doblón of 4 escudos, or Doppie, at 8 piastres	$10\frac{5}{8}$	$106\frac{1}{4}$	$212\frac{1}{2}$	2720
3. Doblón of 2 escudos, or single pistole, at 4 piastres	$5\frac{3}{4}$	$53\frac{1}{8}$	$106\frac{1}{4}$	1360
4. Med. Doblón, or Escudo de Oro; half a Spanish pistole, at 2 piastres	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$26\frac{3}{4}$	$53\frac{1}{8}$	680

SILVER COINS.

	Libras.	Real.	Sueld.	Din.
1. Peso duro, or piastre	$1\frac{2}{6}\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{9}{32}$	$26\frac{9}{16}$	340
2. Half peso		$6\frac{4}{6}\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{9}{32}$	170
3. Quarter peso, or peseta columnaria.		$3\frac{4}{12}\frac{1}{8}$	$6\frac{4}{6}\frac{1}{4}$	85
4. Eighth of a peso, or real de Plata columnaria		$1\frac{1}{2}\frac{6}{3}\frac{9}{6}$	$3\frac{4}{12}\frac{1}{8}$	$42\frac{1}{2}$
5. Sixteenth of a Peso, or medio real de Plata columnaria..			$1\frac{1}{2}\frac{6}{5}\frac{9}{6}$	$21\frac{1}{4}$
6. Peseta		$2\frac{2}{3}\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{5}{16}$	68
7. Real de Plata		$1\frac{2}{6}\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{2}{3}\frac{1}{2}$	34
8. Real de Vellon...			$1\frac{2}{6}\frac{1}{4}$	17
9. Halfreal de Vellon				$8\frac{1}{2}$

COPPER COINS.

1. A two-quarto piece is equal to 4 dineros.
2. The quarto..... 2
3. The ochavo 1
4. The maravedi $\frac{1}{2}$

With respect to the proportion between the

imaginary coins and the Valencian libras, it will be sufficient to state, that

272 Ducados de Cambio make	375 libras.
136	1875 reales.
8 Ducados de Plata	11 libras.
256 Ducados de Vellon.....	187
128 Escudos de Vellon.....	85
4 Reales de Plata.....	5 reales.
64 Reales de Vellon	85 sueldos.

MEASURE.

The measure of length is the *vara*, which is equal to four *palmos*. A *vara* of Valencia is about an English yard.

The corn measure is the *cahiz*, in Valencian *caffise*. It contains twelve barchillas or barsillas, and is equivalent to a Hamburgh last.

The measure of wine, brandy, and vinegar is the *cantaro*, fifty of which make a pipe, and one hundred a ton. It may be estimated at $12\frac{1}{2}$ Hamburgh quarts.

WEIGHTS.

There are two kinds of weights, heavy and light (*peso grueso* and *sutil*), respecting which we have to remark as follows:

A cargo contains $2\frac{1}{2}$ quintals or hundred weight, 10 arrobas, 240 heavy or 360 light pounds.

A quintal is equal to 4 arrobas, 96 heavy or 144 light pounds.

An arroba comprehends 24 heavy or 36 light pounds.

A heavy pound contains one light pound and a half, or 18 ounces.

A light pound is equal to 12 ounces.

EXCHANGE.

Valencia has no exchange except with Alicante, and Alicante only with Madrid, Barcelona, Genoa, Amsterdam, Leghorn, London, Paris, and Marseilles.

SOUTHERN LOVE.

In this country, where every thing in moral as in physical life attains the highest degree of vigour and beauty, the most lovely flower of sensibility cannot fail to be more delicate and more perfect. O love! thou amiable child of the spring-tide of life, whoever would become

acquainted with thee in all thy beauty, let him hasten to thy native land, let him repair to the magic plains of Valencia !

That secret power by which nature has attached the sexes to each other is here manifested in all its energy. Whether it be a moral or a sensual impulse, or a mixture of the two, so much is certain, that here it embellishes every thing with the enchanting colours of enthusiasm and with romantic illusions.

Whatever is most sublime and most profound in the passion of love, seems to belong peculiarly to that sex which nature created for the most exquisite model of her majesty. All the sentiments of women are more soft and tender, more pure and celestial than those of men : by them every thing is taken up with greater warmth, and with all the ardour of poetic enthusiasm.

And the women of the south, the fair females of Valencia—need I speak out more plainly concerning them ? Their climate, beautiful as imagination can conceive—their poetical religion—their romantic legends, conspire to give their fancy a buoyancy, a richness, an activity which baffle description. The Blessed Virgin and heaven—the object of their affections and his embraces, are intimately blended in their imaginations : in them every thing combines to

produce rapture such as none but a female heart can know.

What hand could be so barbarous as to endeavour to dispel this enchanting illusion! Woe to those who should attempt to remove the veil which conceals the most delicious of nature's mysteries! Happy the man who is destined to feel the tender emotions of love beneath this genial sky! Thrice happy he who can excite them in the bosoms of the Valencian fair!

PIAS FUNDACIONES.

Such is the name given to the new villages built by Cardinal Don Francisco de Belluga, between Elche and Orichuela. The district is about two leagues in circumference, and the population is estimated at 4,500 souls. The soil is extremely fertile, as the Segura traverses the whole district.

The amount of the production of this little tract in 1796 was as follows: 5,600 cahices of wheat, 3,000 pounds of silk, 2,400 arrobas of oil, 8,000 arrobas of soda and barilla, 8,000 arrobas of figs and peaches, 7,000 dozen of oranges, 560,000 arrobas of vegetables, 1,800 cantaros of wine, &c.

Such is the produce of the Pias Fundaciones, a district which thirty years ago was a barren

beath. The worthy Cardinal Belluga could not have set the clergy a more laudable example, or have erected a more durable monument to his excellent character.

COURTSHIP.

Among the many pleasing poetic customs that diffuse a charm over life, that from time immemorial have prevailed in the south, and have been handed down from the romantic ages of antiquity, it is impossible to forget the ceremonies attending courtship, the amiable forerunner of Hymen, and which often affords higher gratification than the latter. A few words respecting the manner in which it is conducted in Valencia, will not, therefore, be deemed superfluous.

The lovers are acquainted with each other's sentiments ; the parents have given their consent ; and nothing is wanting but that poetic solemnity which confers a kind of legal validity on the marriage-contract. An evening is therefore appointed for the performance of the necessary ceremonies. The lover, accompanied by a trovador and his friends, repairs to the house of his charmer. He must bring with him musicians, torch-bearers, and other attendants; in

a word, he ought to neglect nothing that can contribute to give the highest degree of pomp to the procession.

On the arrival of this train, the persons composing it form a circle round the house, which is adorned with festoons of flowers. The trovador steps forward with the bridegroom, and, in the name of the latter, begins singing to this effect:—

'Tis now the hour of still midnight,
The stars send forth a brilliant light,
And guide me hither o'er the plain,
Of my coy nymph a glimpse to gain.

He then proceeds to extol her beauty, and his expressions gradually grow more animated and glowing. Thus he compares her stature with the palm-tree, her lips with the pomegranate, and, in a word, he describes her as a model of the most perfect beauty.

From her personal charms he passes to her moral qualities, her sweet disposition, her modesty, her cleanliness, and introduces similes, the subjects of which are furnished by the dove, the swallow, the swan, &c. At length he concentrates the whole in a single word, which signifies women of all women, or the quintessence of the sex, but which would be more closely translated by arch-woman.

As soon as the trovador has finished, the bridegroom knocks at the door, calling his charmer by name three or four times, according to the degree of coyness which she affects. At length she opens the little esparto window, puts out her head, and begs to know what the gentleman wants.

'Tis thee I want, angelic creature !

exclaims he with rapture, and then goes on to describe his passion, which is, of course, the most ardent under the sun. In order to inspire the pretty maid with similar sentiments, he cites a number of examples :

Th' harmonious orbs which roll above
Are all impell'd by mighty love :
The billows that each other chace,
At last dissolve in fond embrace :
While tree to tree and flow'r to flow'r
In am'rous whispers owns its pow'r.

He does not, however, stop there, but passing to animated nature, he reminds her of the loves of the various creatures which compose it :

Hear'st thou the cooing of the dove ;
The plaints of Philomela's love ?
Hear'st thou the am'rous tones which rise
From all that lives beneath the skies ?

He then makes the application, and waits for the answer of his charmer.

“What shall I say,” replies she, with affected coyness. “Ah! I am yet much too young. Who would separate the young dove so early from its mother; and pluck a bud that is not yet opened? Besides, you are a stranger to me. Whence come you? Who are you?”

It is easy to conceive what answer the tender lover returns to these questions, and what impression it makes upon the shy damsel. Though she is expected still to hold out for some time, she is soon unable to resist any longer the solicitations of the impassioned seducer. She tears the garland from her hair, throws it to the successful suitor, and promises everlasting love and constancy.

Scarcely has she uttered these words, when the musicians strike up a sprightly allegro; all the windows are illuminated; the parents come out with their bashful maiden, and conduct the bridegroom, with all his train, into the house in triumph. A jocund ball now commences; refreshments are handed round in abundance; and the whole neighbourhood resounds with the firing of guns and shouts of joy.

BANNOS DE LA REYNA.

By this name are shewn the ruins of an ancient Roman bath, in the vicinity of Cape Hifac. It was constructed on the declivity of a hill, and consisted of six compartments, which were connected by apertures two feet wide. The whole still forms an oblong square, forty feet by seventeen, the four principal walls of which are a foot and a half thick.

The water was conducted to it, on the south and west sides, by two canals, which were probably provided with locks, but which, on account of the retiring of the sea, are now almost dry. Another large canal, communicating with the sea near the baths, is in the same predicament, though it is probable that it was formerly used for the purposes of navigation.

In the environs of these baths, on every side, nothing is to be seen but the ruins of ancient buildings, principally composed of the finest marble. Among the most remarkable are the remains of an ancient theatre, which, according to all appearance, was built close to the sea-side, but the form and dimensions of which it is now impossible, from the bad preservation of the *gradas*, to determine.

An old Spanish writer, the celebrated Escalano, relates, that, during the reign of Philip II. a great number of valuable pavements of Mosaic work were found among these ruins, and appropriated to the embellishment of one of the royal palaces.

With melancholy sensations the observer passes these tacit witnesses of human frailty, and plucks the flower of modesty among these sepulchres of Roman grandeur.

WEDDINGS.

Never was there yet a nation in which marriage was not attended with certain ceremonies ; though they are more or less poetical, according to the climate and manners of the country : so intimately do the solemnities attached to the fairest epoch of life appear to be connected with human sentiment.

Applying this observation to Valencia, shall we be surprised to meet, in this country, with that romantic pastoral character, peculiar to all the habits and customs of the happy natives of the south ? We shall therefore pass over in silence the flowers, the entertainments, the sports, the dances, which accompany a Valencian wedding ; but shall dwell for a moment

on the delicious development of a mystery which, to two congenial souls, is the beginning of a new life.

Midnight arrives, and the bridegroom, assisted by his comrades, is obliged to carry off his bride by force, from the midst of her companions, by whom she is guarded. He bears her in triumph to the terrace of the house, where the nuptial couch is prepared beneath an arbour of flowers.* Here, in the bosom of silent nature, fanned by soft zephyrs that waft around the fragrant perfume of a thousand roses—what a moment for joy! What a moment for the most perfect organization of the fortunate being which then receives existence!

Thus passes the night, and the happy couple steal unperceived through the trap-door of the roof into the house. The guests return, one after another, and assemble to breakfast; the girls bring their late companion a cradle of esparto; and the day is merrily spent in new diversions, in horse-races, playing at ball, puppet-shows, &c.

Amidst rapture inexpressible, the young wife conceives; easy and cheerful she awaits the termination of pregnancy. Without pain and

* Weddings are commonly solemnized here in the months of May and June.

without danger the fruit of her love comes into the world, like a beauteous flower bursting the calix in which it is enveloped.—What parents ! What a country !—Can you yet ask why genius is so rare in the regions of the north !

EL TURIA.

This is the name of the river on which the capital of Valencia is situated, and which, on account of the shallowness of the current, received from the Moors the name of Quadalaviar. It rises in Arragon, traverses the whole province from one extremity to the other, and at length discharges itself, near Grão, into the Mediterranean Sea.

The waters of the Turia, as we have already observed, are applied, throughout its whole course, but especially in the Huerta de Valencia, to the purposes of irrigation. For this reason, during seven months of the year, it has scarcely two feet and a half of water, even at its mouth, and is consequently unnavigable.

This river, however, swells to a great height in winter, especially in the months of January and February, when heavy rains commonly fall in the mountains. In that season the whole huerta is often inundated, and sometimes even part of Valencia itself is overflowed.

This being the case, it cannot excite surprise that the five bridges of Valencia should be so massy and expensive. For the rest, considerable quantities of wood are floated down the Turia, from the mountains to the capital, in the months of March and April, when its current is of moderate depth.

The shores of the upper part of this river were formerly entirely covered with rice-fields, the influence of which on the disproportionate mortality of the inhabitants is incontestable. For these twenty years the cultivation of rice has been relinquished, and, during that period, the population of these districts has been nearly doubled.

ASUNCION DE NUESTRA SENNORA.

The assumption, or miraculous ascent of the Virgin Mary into heaven, celebrated in the Catholic church on the 15th of August, is one of the chief religious festivals in Valencia.

It commences, as in other countries, with a solemn procession. The streets are strewn with flowers; the balconies are hung with rich tapestry; the shops are adorned with mirrors, and the whole city wears the aspect of joy and festivity.

The procession itself combines all the ceremony and pomp which characterize the catholic worship; music, incense, ecclesiastical habits and decorations—in a word, every thing that can add to the illusion. But what attracts the greatest notice, is an artificial cloud, supported by people who are concealed from view, and kept in constant motion by a simple piece of mechanism. On the top of it is seen the figure of the Blessed Virgin, who appears to be slowly ascending towards heaven.

The churches are likewise adorned in the most splendid manner, and especially the cathedral, to which the procession advances. All the columns are hung with crimson taffeta; all the images of the saints are illumined with girandoles. The whole choir is lined with orange-trees, and the high altar has the appearance of a resplendent pyramid of lamps.

But what strikes a stranger more than all the rest is, the multitude of canary-birds that are flying about the church, with long stripes of gilt paper fastened to their tails. The *bon ton* of Valencia requires that the men should catch them to present to their mistresses, and accordingly every body is anxiously intent on this pursuit.

The forenoon is spent in these religious pastimes, and the afternoon is devoted to profane

diversions. These consist of horse-races, climbing, or boxing matches; the solemn procession of the Maestranza, or the exhibition of a Moorish ballet, representing a battle. The whole city is in motion, and all the inhabitants throng like a swarm of bees to the gates.

As soon as it is dark, the illuminations commence. On every side are seen pyramids of lamps, transparencies and devices of various kinds. The brilliant stars and crosses on the steeples are particularly beautiful. The *refrescos* and *voleros* now begin; universal gaiety prevails; till at length the whole is concluded with splendid fire-works.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin!—However repugnant soever this notion may be to reason, still the idea is not the less beautiful and poetic. Is it just that a life so pure and so celestial should terminate in any other way? And ought not she who brought forth the Saviour of mankind to be immortal? Let me then repeat that, however reluctant we may be to admit this dogma, it cannot be denied that it is admirably adapted to the ardent imaginations of the natives of the south.

ROUTES FOR TRAVELLERS.

I. FROM ARANJUEZ TO VALENCIA.

1. *Post-road for Travellers on horseback.*

On leaving Aranjuez, the traveller passes through a naked, thinly peopled country, by way of Villa Manrique, Fuentiduennas, Tarazon, Villarubio, Ucles, Saylices, &c. to Campillo. He commonly puts up the first night at Saylices, and the second at Campillo, where is a tolerably clean posada. There is nothing remarkable in either of these places.

The third day's journey is extremely fatiguing, across a steep chain of mountains called the Corteras. The country in general is not pleasing; but here and there you observe an interesting and picturesque valley. You proceed through Villagorda, to the small but opulent village of Requena, where you may take up your quarters for the third night.

The fourth day's journey lies over a second chain of mountains, called the Cabrillas, after which you enter the province of Valencia, and arrive at the Venta del Relator. From this place it is three leagues to Chiva, and eight from the latter to Valencia, a distance which

appears extremely short to the traveller, owing to the excellent roads, and the terrestrial paradise through which they lead.

Respecting this road, which is fifty-four leagues, we must observe, that it cannot be travelled except on horseback, and with the usual relays. For these you must pay about ten reals (two shillings) each league, and, above all, you must be a good rider.

2. *The New Road.*

This route is to be sure seven leagues longer than the preceding, and there are no post-houses upon it; but the road itself is excellent, and, with the exception of la Mancha, it is provided with good inns.

It is nine hours' journey to Corval, where the traveller commonly takes up his lodging for the first night. The next day he advances by way of la Mata and Pedronera to Provenzio. The third day's journey conducts through Minaya to Roda, and the fourth, which is very short, brings you to Albacete. Here the inns begin to be excellent; the beds are clean, and the accommodations in general as good as can be desired.

The fourth day's journey conducts to Chin-

chilla, the fifth to Venta del Rey, the sixth commonly no farther than Alciva, and the seventh brings you in good time to Valencia. If you hire a *coche de colleras*, as it is called, for yourself and family, the daily expence will not be less than sixteen piastres. A single place in a return coach costs about three piastres and a half a day. If you take a *calesino* to yourself, you may travel at the rate of four piastres; but in a return *calesino* you need not spend more than one and a half or two piastres a day.

II. FROM BILBOA OR BAYONNE TO VALENCIA.

In this journey, for which abundance of opportunities may be met with at Bilboa, you pass through Saragossa, the distance to which city is fifty-six leagues. From Saragossa you are obliged to travel forty-five leagues on horseback upon the Camino de Horraduras (footway), after which you have still forty-nine leagues to go on the Camino de Ruedas (high-road) before you reach Valencia.

III. FROM CADIZ TO VALENCIA.

If you choose to travel along the coast, you may go by way of Malaga, Carthagená, and Alicante. To Malaga the distance is thirty-

three leagues; from that city to Carthagena seventy; thence to Alicante eighteen, and from the latter place to Valencia twenty-seven. You may otherwise cross Andalusia and la Mancha, and then proceed by the usual way from Albacete. The distance from Cadiz to Cordova is thirty-six leagues, and thence to Valencia seventy-eight. In time of peace, and in the summer months, you may also go by sea from Cadiz to Malaga, and for this voyage you meet with daily opportunities at the rate of twelve or sixteen piastres.

IV. FROM PERPIGNAN TO VALENCIA.

You proceed by the usual route through Figueras, Gerona, &c. to Barcelona, a distance of thirty leagues; and from that city to Valencia is fifty-five more. In time of peace, and in summer, you may go from Barcelona to Valencia by sea, for which you meet with frequent opportunities, at the rate of six or eight piastres. It is advisable to furnish yourself with a mattress and some provisions for this voyage, which is often performed in two days and a half.

Valencia is thirty-two leagues from Murcia, fifty-one from Madrid, and seventy-four from Granada. Whoever wishes for opportunities

of travelling either by coach or with muleteers, needs only to apply at the Meson de Arzemilleria in the Calle de Toledo, where they are to be met with almost every day.

LONGEVITY.

If there be a climate more peculiarly favourable to man than any other, it must certainly exist in Valencia—in Valencia, where every thing contributes to the development, the perfection, and the preservation of the human machine—in Valencia, where a happy old age is so frequent, and where extraordinary longevity is by no means rare.

Go to Chiva, to Burjasot, to Benimamet, to Gandia: traverse this whole delightful tract of coast; you will every where find people of seventy or eighty, whom at first sight you would not take to be much more than fifty; you will every where hear of persons who have attained the patriarchal age of one hundred and twenty, nay even of one hundred and forty, and who are still brisk, hearty, and active.

Hufeland has satisfactorily demonstrated, that longevity is the result of the influence of climate, and the cooperation of the alimentary substances. Apply these observations to Va-

lencia, and it will be unnecessary to add another word. It may not, however, be amiss to subjoin a few instances of extraordinary age to those which already are generally known.

In 1796 a woman, named Maria Franzisca Tosca, died at Gandia, at the age of one hundred and twenty-three years, who retained all her senses, except that of hearing, to the last moment of her life. She had never observed any particular diet; but during the last ten years she subsisted almost entirely on bread and fruit. It is remarkable that a lameness, occasioned by a paralytic stroke in her eighty-seventh year, went away of itself six months before her death. A circumstance still more surprising is, that in her ninety-seventh year, when it was found necessary to cut off her thick black hair, on account of a wound on her head, it grew again in a short time as fine as ever.

At Benimamet died in 1799, at the age of one hundred and twenty years, Antonio Navarete, who till his sixtieth year had been a sailor, and till he was eighty had been accustomed to carry large baskets of fish on his back. So late as his eighty-sixth year, he could distinguish the flags of ships sailing along the coast, at the distance of a cannon-shot; and in his ninetieth year, he walked a league almost every day. He had been thrice married, and his last child was

born in his seventy-fourth year. He had never been particular in his diet, but had always manifested a great aversion for brandy. He died of a fracture of the leg, without ever having known what it was to be sick.

At Moxente there was still living in 1798, a vintager of one hundred and thirty years, who at the age of sixty-eight had run for a wager with two men of fifty. Till he was ninety-six he had all his teeth, and went abroad every day to work till his hundredth year. From that time he employed himself in making esparto mats, at which occupation he earned twelve reals a week. It was generally reported that he had never had any connection with the other sex before he was thirty; and that from his seventieth year, he had lived entirely upon bread, cheese, and fruit.

We shall conclude with another remarkable example, in the person of Maria Augustina Neroz, who died at Chiva, in 1800, at the great age of one hundred and forty-two years. She was married in her twenty-fifth year, bore eight children, and at the age of seventy, twelve years after her husband's death, she had a return of the menstrual evacuation. Her favourite food was goat's milk, with which she would now and then eat broiled pilchards. She used till she was one hundred and eleven to walk every week

a distance of two leagues and a half (near nine miles); and till her one hundred and thirtieth year, she earned two reals a day by esparto works. She lost her sight and hearing only two days before her death, and expired almost unperceived while at supper.

These examples, the number of which might very easily be increased, will suffice to prove the excellence of this climate, and its life-prolonging influence. How different from the north, where age is always so dreary, and instances of such longevity are comparatively so rare!

O Valencia, land of health and of patriarchal life! Let us hasten to thy plains, that we may be able to look forward to a cheery old age. Here let us fix our habitations, that, in the bosom of beauteous nature, we may recover the lost relish for all the pleasures of life. Here let us meet death: here we shall sink peaceful and resigned into the arms of this last friend of man.

NOCHE BUENA.

The most pleasing, the most simple, and the most humane of all religious festivals, which, in

the midst of the dreary season of winter, fills every place with life and joy, is Christmas.

And yet, what are the pleasures of the north in comparison of those enjoyments which the south affords on this occasion? Archangel and Valencia! What a contrast! Oh! it is impossible to describe the sensations excited by the celebration of Christmas among flowers, blossoms, and all the beauties of May!

In the night which ushers in this festival, all Valencia resounds with gaiety and joy. In every street are erected small stages with mangers,* and bands of music. In every place you hear the firing of guns, and Christmas carols,† and every person of any ability gives his friends an entertainment on the festive occasion. In the houses of the more opulent classes, the utmost magnificence is displayed. Here the teraces are illuminated with lamps and adorned with allegorical transparencies; here dramatic pieces are exhibited and brilliant refrescos are given; here the native of the north may behold, to his astonishment, upon every table the most exquisite fruits and the most beautiful flowers in lovely intermixture.

After the repast, the company amuse them-

* *Naciementos.*

† *Villancicos.*

selves with the *santos* and *estrechos*; they dance voleros, pay visits to the neighbours, or parade the illuminated streets with torches and music. A thousand tricks are played with confectionary, hooks, little bells, and the like, which are taken and returned with equal good-humour.

Nothing can be more beautiful than the view of the whole city and huerta, from a high terrace on Christmas night. It appears like an undulating sea of light, from which numbers of rockets ascend at intervals. On every side are heard the accents of gaiety and mirth, and the noise is heightened from time to time by numberless *feux de joie*.

The hour of matins arrives, and the inhabitants throng to the churches, which are brilliantly illuminated. If piety consists in bustle and merriment, more devout people cannot exist. But take care of the walnuts and oranges, to which even the priest who reads mass is himself exposed. Beware too of the still more dangerous syrens and their *conmigos*,* which on this occasion are doubly seducing.

* Come with me.

COMPARISONS.

Travel, ye who are capable of making comparisons, to Hieres and Nice, to Naples and Montpellier, and say if the preference ought not to be given to Valencia.

Let us begin with Hieres. The climate there is certainly delicious, but the winters are sometimes rather severe. Sulzer saw snow fall there in December: an unwelcome sight, it may be supposed, to an invalid. The country, it must be allowed, is extremely beautiful; but Hieres itself is a small place, destitute of all the resources that contribute to the comfort of life, and where accommodations are by no means cheap. Lastly, you cannot live here except in winter, the air being rendered extremely unwholesome in summer by the neighbouring swamps.

Nice certainly has its advantages. But yet, as delicious as the four winter months may be, so disagreeable and intolerable those of spring and summer in general prove. Add to this the total want of shade; the bad quality of the water, which is impregnated with particles of gypsum; the abundance of vermin, which you can scarcely get rid of even in winter; the inconvenience and the dampness of the houses; the

dearness of provisions; and the malignant character of the inhabitants, which in truth conspire to give not very favourable ideas of Nice.

But what objections are there to Naples?—Naples, it cannot be denied, is a very agreeable place for a residence of a few weeks. But the volcanic atmosphere, the humidity generally prevalent in winter, the intolerable heat of summer, the want of shade, the horrible dust from the lava.—Woe to the invalid who is confined to Naples! Even Sorrento and Ischia, places so highly extolled, are at best but agreeable abodes in spring.

Then Montpellier must be the place. Montpellier, it must be admitted, has a very pure air, and upon the whole a delicious temperature; but the cold, piercing *cers*, the humid, hot, and suffocating *autan*, now and then produce some difference. We should likewise take into the account the vicinity of the morasses of Magalon, the exorbitant prices demanded for lodgings, the want of shady walks, and other inconveniences which are certainly worthy of some consideration. It is, besides, asserted that the air of Montpellier is by far too sharp for persons labouring under phthysical complaints, and that it consequently almost always proves fatal.

Several other places are recommended for the

residence of invalids, and particularly Vevay, Marseilles, Cannes, and Avignon. But Vevay is not agreeable except in winter, and, to tell the truth, its situation is not southerly enough by far; Marseilles possesses great advantages, but the adjacent country might be much more beautiful; Cannes is only a village inhabited by fishermen; and Avignon is frightfully solitary and ugly. Besides, we must not forget the *mistrals* or north winds which prevail throughout all Provence, and are doubly dangerous to invalids.

What consequence ought we hence to deduce? That Valencia deserves the preference in every respect, whether we consider the climate, the country, the cheapness of necessaries, or the comforts of social life. The only thing that can possibly be found fault with, is the absurdity of many of the ceremonies of religious worship. But, provided you avoid giving any occasion for public scandal, it matters not what you are, even if you have the misfortune to be in your heart a Jew.

CACAHUETE.

This is the ground-nut, distinguished in botanical systems by the name of *arachis hypo-*

gæa. It is a native of the South of Asia and America, and is carefully cultivated by the natives for the sake of its fruit, which is very nutritious, and has an agreeable flavour. Attempts have, of late years, been made, and with the greatest success, to raise it in Valencia. As the culture of this plant may appear an interesting subject to the future traveller, it may not be amiss to introduce in this place a brief extract from the works which have appeared respecting it.*

The time for planting it is, according to Tabares, from the middle of May till the end of June. The grains must be put into separate holes, at the distance of about a foot asunder, in a light sandy soil that has been well manured. At first they must be sparingly watered, till they begin to blossom, when they must receive a more abundant supply. It must not be forgotten that they require a great deal of air and sun, and will scarcely thrive in the neighbourhood of any other vegetable, and consequently not in the vicinity of a tree.

* *Observaciones practicas sobre el cacahuete, o Mani de America, ou producion en Espanna, bondad del Fruto, y sur varios usos, particularmente para la extraccion de aceyte, modo de cultivarle, y beneficiarle, para el bien de la nacion par Don Franc. Tabares de Ulloa. En Valencia, 1800, 8vo. Memoria sobre el Mani de los Americanos, par Don Anton. Echeandia. En Zaragoza, 1800, 8vo.*

When the leaves begin to turn yellow, it is time to gather in the crop. The plants are pulled up, and after having been dried in an airy, sunny place, the grain is thrashed out of the pods with sticks. This may either be done immediately, or the pods may be kept in a dry, airy place for a year together without spoiling.

The fruit of this plant affords a kind of food equally wholesome and agreeable to the taste. It may be prepared a thousand different ways, as garden-stuff, in puddings, &c. or if mixed with an equal quantity of flour, it makes excellent palatable bread. The oil extracted from it is not much inferior to the best olive-oil.

With respect to the properties of this plant and its fruit, Echeandia has made the following experiments.—The fresh leaves and stalks taste like pease, and have little or no smell, and in these particulars there is not much difference between them and the dry leaves and stalks.

The fresh blossoms have a weak but agreeable smell; they are tender, succulent, and have a sweetish taste somewhat like lettuce.

The unripe fruit smells like fresh liquorice, and has a sweetish taste. When chewed it is brittle, dissolves, and tinges the spittle of a reddish hue. The ripe fruit has no smell, and a sweetish taste, nearly resembling that of grey pease. In chewing it dissolves almost en-

tirely, so that the spittle becomes nearly like milk. When boiled it is much sweeter, and more juicy, and has a very strong herbageous smell.

The plant, burned with the pods, yields ashes which are useful for a variety of economical purposes, and contain a salt of considerable strength.

If a portion of the seed is mixed with a proper quantity of water, it yields a very white, thick, frothy, buttery liquid, which retains the taste peculiar to the fruit. Sulphuric acid produces no change in the colour; alum accelerates the precipitation; alcohol increases the milky whiteness, and, in an hour, likewise occasions precipitation. If this infusion is left to stand, a skin is formed on the surface, and at last it turns sour. A sediment resembling white starch is deposited on the bottom of the vessel, and the liquid, between the skin on the surface and the sediment, looks like whey.

If the whole seeds, with their skins, are macerated in the *balnea mariæ*, they grow soft, and yield a transparent infusion nearly of a blood red, which, on the addition of sulphuric acid, turns to dark blue; it has a sweetish farinaceous taste, and no smell whatever. A strongly saturated decoction is thicker; sulphuric acid turns it to ash grey; it has a sweet and

very substantial taste, and a somewhat stronger smell.

On macerating the seeds without the skins, the infusion assumes the colour of whey, which is turned by sulphuric acid to a straw-colour. The taste is the same as in the preceding. The saturated decoction possesses the same properties; except that on the addition of sulphuric acid, it first becomes turbid, and afterwards whitish, and at the same time a mucilaginous substance is precipitated.

If a mixture of one part of the flour of these grains, with six of water, is left exposed to the air, on the third day an acid, and on the sixth a putrid, fermentation takes place, attended with the formation of a considerable quantity of sal ammoniac.

From these and other experiments, it results that the cacahuete contains four parts of oil, two of mucilage, one part of saccharine matter, and one of earthy substance, the latter being mixed with nearly equal parts of mucilage and gluten; and that it is consequently extremely nutritious, and much less flatulent than any other kind of pulse.

The oil extracted from it is strong and liquid, without smell, of a greenish yellow colour, transparent, and has a sweet, agreeable, buttery taste. When it comes from the press, it has at

first a whitish colour approaching to green, and appears very turbid on account of the mucilage with which it is mixed; but it gradually clarifies, if left in a moderate warmth. In a temperature of seventy to seventy-seven degrees, it turns bitter and rancid in a few days.

It is not soluble either in water or alcohol. A degree of heat exceeding that of boiling water, is required to transform it into gas, and in this state it takes fire if a candle or piece of ignited charcoal is applied to it. In a state of ebullition it throws out some aqueous vapours, and becomes thicker. It burns more slowly than olive oil, and gives a much brighter light, without any perceptible smoke or vapour. When mixed with alkaline substances, it produces excellent soap, and forms a very good liniment, with the addition of goulard water. Upon the whole it answers all the purposes of the best olive oil.

Can this be the plant which in Germany was recently offered to the public as a secret, and from the cultivation of which the farmer was promised a profit of at least a thousand per cent? In this case the advertisers must have fallen into an egregious mistake, since the cacahuete cannot thrive except in a southern climate.

BUSOT.

This place, situated at the distance of five leagues and a half from Alicante, in an extremely romantic country, is celebrated for its warm springs.

The number of these springs at present discovered is four, the principal of which rises at the neighbouring village of Aygues. They have a temperature of 104° , a slightly sulphureous smell (especially the spring de la Cogalla), a strong taste of iron, and a remarkably relaxing property. If the water is left to stand, it deposits a sediment of the colour of yellow ochre, and when evaporated, crystals of marine and Glauber's salt are formed.

The waters of Busot are used with great advantage both for drinking and bathing, on which account there is no want of company here from February to May. It is, however, to be regretted that so little has been done for their accommodation, and that no enterprising speculator has yet paid the least attention to the subject. The lodgings at Aygues, of course, precisely about the principal spring, are most loudly complained of.

Some compensation is, however, afforded by

the beauty of the country and the purity of the air of this salubrious retreat. All around rise picturesque mountains, cultivated half way to their summits, and on every side appears the most luxuriant and agreeably diversified vegetation. How many romantic spots, created for solitude and love, become dear to most of the visitors of these waters, and are indelibly impressed on the memory of not a few !

To botanists Busot and Aygues are remarkable for the *quercus coccifera*, called by the Spaniards *coscora*, which is here cultivated in great abundance, and furnishes the inhabitants with a very lucrative article of commerce, in the drug known by the name of *cochineal*.

BENIDOLEIG.

In the vicinity of this pretty village, situated on the sea-coast, is a cavern celebrated for its beautiful stalactites, and for the treasures supposed to have been secreted there in the times of the Moors. To gain possession of these treasures, nothing more is necessary than the aid of three white animals, namely, a white lamb, a white rabbit, and a white pigeon ; and yet they remain untouched to this day.

Easy as the fulfilment of these conditions

may appear, says the tradition, the smallest grey hair, a feather ever so little speckled in any of these animals, is sufficient to render the whole process completely nugatory. One such example might be thought a sufficient warning for every future speculator.

The person who, above one hundred and fifty years ago, discovered this secret in an ancient Moorish manuscript, was the first that resolved, in company of a friend, to make the experiment. Accordingly, they procured the above-mentioned animals, hung themselves round with scapularies, relics, and rosaries, and thus, according to the direction, repaired, precisely at midnight, to the cavern.

Scarcely have they advanced a few steps, when they feel a gentle breeze, which blows out their torches; and a small golden flame bursting forth at the extremity of the cave seems to shew them the way. With increased courage they proceed: suddenly the rock opens, and they behold a spacious recess filled with glistening gold and silver. They are just going to enter; but at that moment a veiled Moorish damsel rises from the ground, and with a golden sword arrests their progress.

The terrified adventurers recoil a few steps; trembling they lay the three white animals at her feet, and read the prescribed form of in-

cantation. But it is all of no avail. The maiden shakes her head, indignantly pushes back the animals with her sword, which she thrice waves over them. A tremendous peal of thunder follows, the light disappears, the recess is closed with a horrible noise ; the whole cavern is filled with a frightful tempest, and an invisible power hurls the two adventurers back to the entrance.

When they recovered the use of their senses, they found themselves under an olive-tree at the distance of two hundred paces. With horror they now discovered under the wing of the pigeon a little grey feather that was scarcely discernible ; and probably it was owing only to their relics that they came off so well as they did.

LA COSCOXA.

Every body knows that cochineal (*coccus ilic.*) is a species of insect which is found on a certain kind of oak, and is used for dyeing scarlet. This oak, the *quercus coccifera* of Linnaeus, is called by the Spaniards *coscoxa**.

There are two species of the *coscoxa*, one of which is a tree, and the other a shrub : they both produce the cochineal insect, but with

* Pronounced *coscocha* ; *x* in Spanish being sounded like *ch* in Loch.

some difference. On the latter it adheres only to the leaves, but on the former it is observed also on the trunk and branches.

In many parts of the south of Spain, and especially in the Huerta de Alicante, as far as Busot, Aygues, &c. cochineal is a very lucrative article of commerce. The insects are scraped off the plants with a little wooden spatula, or with the nails, spread out upon *estera* mats, sprinkled with white wine vinegar, and dried in the shade. They are then sold at the rate of from eighteen to twenty reals per pound.

We shall subjoin a few particulars relative to the natural history of these insects: they are fastened to the leaves with a kind of glue, in which they are themselves partly enveloped. They are of different sizes, from one eighth to one fourth of an inch in diameter, but always perfectly spherical, and covered with a white dust which hides their red, smooth, shining surface. They are divided into three sorts, in which the different periods of their growth are distinguishable.

Those belonging to the first sort have the appearance of fine, tenacious membranes, which are filled with a brilliant, blood-coloured liquid. In the second sort you find under this membrane a still smaller, in which are inclosed the almost imperceptible eggs. The space between the

two membranes contains the same kind of colouring liquid, but in less quantity than in the preceding. Lastly, in the third sort, the eggs have attained their full growth ; the two membranes adhere closely to each other, and the liquid seems to be entirely dried up. It is unnecessary to say which of the three is in the greatest request, and fetches the best price.

EL MURCIEGALO.

This fine word signifies nothing more or less than a bat, which is the arms of Valencia. The occasion of its adoption is thus related in the chronicles.

James the Conqueror laid siege in 1238 to Valencia. He had established his head-quarters in the vicinity of Turia. Here one evening a whole flight of bats made their appearance. One of them perched upon the standard fixed on the top of the king's tent, while the others in wide circles flew round their companion.

As soon as the king perceived this phenomenon, he assembled all his generals. "Look yonder," said he to them : "as the bats, in the opinion of our country-people, predict fair weather, I accept this as an omen of to-morrow's success."

The famished Moors were actually obliged to surrender at discretion, and the next day at noon the Spaniards entered Valencia in triumph. To perpetuate the remembrance of this event, a bat was chosen for the arms of the city, and a solemn procession is annually held on St. George's day, when the celebrated bat is seen delineated on all the flags and on all the escutcheons.

Poor despised animal, who would have imagined that honours so extraordinary were reserved for thee ! Such, however, is the fact ; and so the bat of Valencia for ever !

PICTURESQUE VIEWS.

Who can produce a picture of a landscape without any colours but what the ink-stand affords ; or by a gradual description of the living and smiling scenery which the eye ought to embrace at once ? Such an attempt serves but to make the reader angry, and the writer ridiculous. Two words, and then no more, should delineate the character and the impression produced by a view : all that exceeds this is superfluous.

Accordingly we refer our readers to the picturesque tours of Spain which have been an-

nounced at Paris and Madrid* : we shall merely inform them where the most interesting views are to be sought ; the rest they may see in the engravings or on the spot.

We shall mention then the magnificent landscapes of Morella, Oropesa, Sierra de Engarceran, Ares del Maestre, Culla, Onda, Murviedro, Valencia, Gandia, Chulilla, Campos, Es-lida, Bocayrente, Alicante, and Liria. In every part of this province will be found either mountain or maritime views—prospects either sublime or beautiful, but invariably enchanting ; in every part, you will meet with charming models of the most romantic scenes that ever your imagination pourtrayed.

Happy mortals, whom fate permits to visit these delicious regions, ye will be the most equitable judges, the best advocates of the author !

ASTRONOMY.

Is not the origin of this divine science to be sought beneath a southern sky ? Where could it be studied with such advantage as in those

* One by Alexander Laborde ; the other by a Society of Spanish Literati.

happy climes? Fortunate and truly astronomical regions, where the etherial firmament shines in everlasting, uninterrupted splendour—where the beauty of the enchanting nights heightens the enthusiasm excited by the aspect of the star-bespangled sky!

Sacred and sublime study, who alone can'st elevate the humble offspring of the dust to the contemplation of celestial objects! What delicious fruits dost thou offer to all mankind! What inexpressible pleasures dost thou prepare for those who love thee! Arise, ye beneficent orbs, and guide the wandering mariner into the course he ought to pursue! Arise, ye worlds, the mansions of eternal peace! and be your beams to him the ministers of joy and consolation!

Astronomy, thou most noble, most sublime of all sciences! How many great truths, how many sweetly-soothing ideas dost thou embrace! What higher avocation than to calculate the orbits of celestial worlds, than to penetrate into the profoundest mysteries of the creation! And that heavenly inspiration, that foretaste of immortality! Yes, to you, ye sacred, resplendent orbs—to you, the abode of all that is great and good—to you the angel of peace conveys your friends!

And thou, Valencia, with thy pure astronomic sky, with thy clear, enchanting star-illumined

nights, soon wilt thou too erect to the noblest of all sciences a temple worthy of her* ; soon wilt thou share the admiration paid throughout all Europe to the names of a Herschel, a Zach, and their illustrious colleagues.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

The inhabitants of the district of Hoya de Castalla, in the southern part of the province, possess an excellent remedy against the bite of the viper, composed of the sea-holly (*eryngium campestre*), viper's bugloss (*echium vulgare*), mad-wort (*alyssum spinosum*), and Cretan balm (*melissa cretica* †), in the following manner :

* A few apartments for astronomical observations have been prepared, for the present, in the buildings belonging to the University. At the beginning of the year 1802 appeared a little piece, entitled : *Curso y efemerides del nuevo planeta descubierto en Sicilia en el Observatorio real de Palermo el 1 de Enero de 1801, para el in mediato Mes de Mayo de 1802. Calculadas en Valencia por E. B. D. L. Madrid* ; published by Castillo.

† Under this name the plant is described by some botanists, and, among the rest, by Lamark ; but Cavanilles proves from the structure of the calix and other circumstances, that it is properly the *Nepeta marifolia*. See *Anales de Ciencias naturales*. 8vo. Madrid, 1800. No. V. p. 192.

The plants are taken when they are beginning to run to seed, and dried in the shade till all their humidity is evaporated. On this each is separately pounded; the powder is passed through a hair-sieve, mixed in equal parts, and put away in well-corked bottles. It is to be observed, that none of the roots must be employed, except those of the sea-holly, which possess very great strength.

With respect to the use of this remedy, it is indispensably necessary that it should be administered immediately after the infliction of the wound. The common dose for a man is one scruple, for a dog a drachm; and the vehicle used for both is wine or water. No particular diet need be observed; only the powder must be taken morning and evening for nine days successively.

From time immemorial the inhabitants of the above-mentioned district have made use of this powder as a specific for the bite of vipers with universal success; till at length the celebrated Cavanilles resolved to try its effects against the bites of mad dogs. He lost no time in communicating his ideas to the physicians and medical men in the province, and had the satisfaction to see that his philanthropic views were productive of the happiest results.

Thus, for instance, at the farm de los Puchols, in the district of the little town of Sierra

den Garceran, a man of sixty, named Miguel Puig, and a boy, twelve years old, named Vito Sorella, were in January, 1796, bitten, the one on the hand, the other on the cheek, in such a manner that both lost a considerable quantity of blood. The physician of the place, Don Blas Sales, was not sent for till three days after the accident; he nevertheless resolved to try the powder, which produced effects that surpassed his expectation.

In fact, the two patients perfectly recovered of the bites, without manifesting the slightest symptoms of hydrophobia till the present time (1802); and during an interval of six years not the least alteration has been observed in their health. The actual madness of the dog seems to have been fully proved; for several goats and sheep, which were likewise bitten by him, died in forty days, with all the signs of the most complete hydrophobia.

In 1799, at the village of Tornesa, in the district of the same town, a man of fifty-five, named Francisco Baset, his daughter Manuela Baset, aged twenty-three, and another man, named Joaquin Fauro, were bitten, the two former on the hand, and the latter on the middle finger. Baset and his daughter immediately applied to Don Thomas Sabater, the surgeon of their village, who furnished them with powder sufficient for nine days. On the contrary, Fauro, who

lived at another village, looked upon his wound as a mere trifle, and took no farther notice of it.

What was the consequence? Baset and his daughter were perfectly cured, and have for these three years experienced not the least alteration in their health; whereas the unfortunate Fauro died sixty days after the accident, with all the symptoms of the most confirmed hydrophobia.

Another mad dog in Sierra den Garceran had bitten several other dogs, pigs, &c. The powder was administered to some of them for eleven successive days; and till the present moment, during the space of nearly two years, no ill consequences whatever have been observed. All the animals to whom the powder was not given died raving mad in twenty-five days.

One dog, to whom it was found impossible to administer more than four doses, did not go mad, but fell into a kind of lethargy, and refused to eat; till at length he died on the sixtieth day, but without any of the symptoms of actual hydrophobia.

So much for the experiments with a remedy, which, as far as I know, has never been included among the six or seven medicines for preventing the consequences of the bite of mad dogs. It seems, however, to be so much the more deserving of the attention of the physicians

of every country, as its efficacy against the venom of the viper is fully confirmed by the experience of ages.*

ENJOYMENT OF LIFE IN THE SOUTH.

How relative soever this expression may appear, still it cannot fail to convey an idea of felicity, physical and moral, which constitutes the fairest form of human existence.

And what else is this most enviable, most exquisite enjoyment of life, but the most free and unembarrassed exercise of all the human energies, but the most complete development and utmost activity of the physical and intellectual system? Must it not consist in the greatest number of agreeable sensations and pleasing ideas, as well as in the highest degree of intensity and diversity in both.

Assuredly in this image we discover the fairest and loveliest form of which human life appears to be susceptible; and by this image too we are reminded of those happy regions where every thing attains the highest degree of fulness, beauty, and perfection.

* At the moment these sheets are going to press, I find from the Spanish journals that this powder has likewise been tried at Madrid with complete success.

We have treated of the south, where nature appears in her fairest form, and dispenses her choicest blessings. That pure atmosphere, that enchanting temperature, that abundance of the most delicate and nutritious aliments—do not all these contribute to the highest gratification of sense, to the most rapid combination of the ideas, to the greatest intensity of the sentiments, to the most buoyant sense of the value of existence? Would any one live the genuine life of the poet, of the artist, of enjoyment, let him repair to these happy climes!

I wake and a fairy land tinged with the ruddy glow of aurora is expanded to my view. The pure atmosphere is impregnated with the perfumes of the orange, and the crowns of the majestic palm-trees tremble in the golden beams of the orb of day.—Where am I?—Into what paradise has kind fate transported me?—O Valencia! Valencia! 'tis in thy flowery bosom that I have opened my eyes!

A P P E N D I X.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL SURVEY OF VALENCIA.

INTRODUCTION.

Few countries exhibit, in so small a compass, such a variety and such striking contrasts as the kingdom of Valencia. In the northern and western part we find nothing but wild, inclement, mountainous regions, while the middle and southern portion is occupied by the most fertile and delicious plains, which extend to the coast.

In the productions also may be remarked the greatest diversity. The northern districts produce flax, hemp, metals, and pulse; the southern abound in dates, oranges, wine, and salt. Thus the province possesses a superabundance of the productions of northern and southern climates which perhaps cannot be paralleled in any other country.

The difference between the northern and southern divisions in respect to the general population is equally remarkable. In the former the traveller scarcely finds an insignificant vil-

lage, or paltry hamlet, every three or four leagues; whereas in the latter, he passes through hamlets, villages, and towns in almost uninterrupted succession. It cannot therefore appear an exaggeration if we calculate the population of the southern part at three-fifths of the whole.

It is obvious what an influence this difference must have upon the industry and circumstances of the inhabitants. Thus in the northern part very little corn is raised, but so much the more attention is paid to the breeding of cattle and coarse manufactures of woollens, leather, esparto, hemp, earthen ware, &c. the preparation of gypsum and the distilleries—in a word, to occupations which are in some measure rugged, laborious, and productive of but moderate profit.

In the southern parts, on the contrary, how flourishing is agriculture! What manufactures of silk and other finer fabrics! How many advantages accruing from commerce, luxury, and the fisheries! What ease, what opulence in comparison of the northern portion of the province!

But we wish likewise to make ourselves acquainted with the inhabitants of these regions. We enquire their character and their manners. And what do we find? A good-natured,

sprightly, industrious race, that understands the art of cultivating, of turning to advantage, and of enjoying every thing ; an intelligent provincial people, which under a better government, exempt from the influence of religious dogmas, and the oppression of the landed proprietors, would perhaps be the best and the happiest in Europe.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL SURVEY.

Superficial contents 838 square leagues. Population 932,150 souls. The greatest part of the province is mountainous, so that the level country can scarcely be computed at 240 square leagues. (See the first article in this volume).

I. NORTHERN PART OF THE PROVINCE.

From the left bank of the Millares, to the frontiers of Arragon and Catalonia, full of lofty chains of wild mountains, among which, however, there are some plains and valleys.—The climate cold and changeable, but somewhat milder towards the sea-coast. Upon the whole thinly peopled, but well cultivated where the soil permits.

I. DISTRICT OF BENIFAZA.

The most northern, inclement, and barren of all ; the high mountains being covered during four months in the year with snow.—Abundance of pine-trees, beeches, &c.—Mines of vitriol, alum, and iron, which have been neglected ; in many places mines of coal, but which the inhabitants know not yet how to turn to account.

Seven small places with scarcely 1,680 inhabitants ; nothing but poverty and misery. At the village of Pobla alone, with about 500 inhabitants, a somewhat milder climate, better soil and greater fertility.

2. DISTRICT OF HERBES, VALLIBONA, AND
VALLIVANA.

The soil rather better, and somewhat more populous than the preceding, but upon the whole very little difference ; a wild, inclement, mountainous country. Herbes 86 inhabitants. Vallibona 110 inhabitants ; Vallivana, nothing but detached cottages.

3. DISTRICT OF MORELLA.

The soil grows better; 5,200 inhabitants. The town of Morella 4,800 inhabitants: woollen manufactures; upwards of 200 looms. Village of Chiva, upwards of 300 inhabitants. Great quantities of bees and some fruit raised here.

4. DISTRICT DE LA RIA.

The mountains lower—the climate milder—the soil more fertile. Forcall 1,356 inhabitants; almond and mulberry-trees; silk, wheat, honey, walnuts, culinary vegetables, and some wine; manufactures of alpargates. Villares 200 inhabitants; nearly the same productions. Ortels 310 inhabitants; bad soil and poverty. Palanques 290 inhabitants; condition the same. Zorita 1,000 inhabitants; soil excellent and very fertile. The four other places nothing but wretched villages, whose scanty inhabitants live in the greatest poverty. In La Mata alone a few persons are engaged in the woollen-manufactures.

5. DISTRICT OF CINC TORRES, CASTELLFORT, AND
PORTELL.

A wild mountainous country; upwards of 3,000 inhabitants; negligent cultivation; poverty and misery. Cinc Torres 1,250 inhabitants; woollen-manufactures; about 38 or 40 looms. Portell, about 750 inhabitants; great indigence and want of employment.

6. DISTRICT OF CATI.

Town of Cati 2,000 inhabitants: ribbon manufactures; 200 looms; some fruit and vegetables. A great part of the district uncultivated.

7. DISTRICT OF MONTESA.

Mountainous, but fertile, especially in corn. Chert, with 1,756 inhabitants, many of whom are employed in manufactures of wool, hemp, and flax. Scarcely one-sixth of the district under cultivation.

8. DISTRICT OF CANET.

Canet 1,710 inhabitants; silk, wine, vegetables, fruit, honey; eight distilleries. La Jana

1,720 inhabitants ; industrious husbandmen and bee-masters. Trahiguera 2,000 inhabitants ; and San Jorge 600 inhabitants : wretched soil, agriculture neglected, but many hands employed in the manufacture of alpargates and earthenware. Rosell 800 inhabitants ; industrious cultivators of their ungrateful soil. Excellent marble in the mountains.

9. DISTRICT OF VINAROS.

Towards the sea-coast the climate gradually more mild and the country better cultivated—all the productions of the beautiful southern tract of coast.

Vinaroz, close to the sea-side with 9,000 inhabitants ; the country well cultivated and full of activity. Fine huerta, in which one year with another, 18,000 cantaros of wine are produced ; lucrative fisheries. A considerable coasting trade, especially in the conveyance of salt from the works of La Mata.

Benicarlo, likewise on the sea-coast with 5,858 inhabitants ; the country still better cultivated than about Vinaroz, and fruit of all kinds in abundance ; advantageous commerce in that article, and especially in wine, 225,000 cantaros of which are annually raised. (Great quantities are however exported by this name from

Vinaroz and Alcala). Some fisheries and coasting trade ; many hands employed in cooper's works.

Penniscola, on a rock, with 2,250 inhabitants ; air exceedingly salubrious, so that the number of births is regularly, to that of deaths, as fourteen to one ; agriculture, in comparison with Benicarlo, very indifferent, excepting in those lands which are let to the industrious inhabitants of that town.

Alcala, in the centre of the plain, with 3,600 inhabitants ; not yet completely cultivated, though the inhabitants endeavour to rival those of Benicarlo. On the sea-coast morasses and much waste land.

10. DISTRICT OF OROPESA.

The low tracts on the coast marshy and unwholesome ; the higher sandy and barren ; little good land, and thin population. Torrablanca, a wretched village, with about 100 inhabitants. Oropesa, with scarcely 200 inhabitants. The Albufera of Oropesa, half a league in length, and a quarter of a league in breadth, is a lagoon whose noxious exhalations occasion frequent epidemic diseases.

11. DISTRICT OF BENICASSIM.

A wild mountainous region, full of pine-trees, beeches, &c. The greater part yet uncultivated. Benicassim, a quarter of a league from the sea, surrounded with lofty mountains; at most 180 inhabitants; great poverty; a small bay for fishing-vessels. Pobla Tornesa, still higher up in the mountains; 315 inhabitants; agriculture indifferent.

Borriol, with 2,340 inhabitants, who partly subsist by the carriage of fruit; extensive plantations of algarrobos, which produce 200,000 arrobas a-year; in a better state of cultivation than any part of the district.

Villafames, in the midst of the mountains, with 2,025 inhabitants; good cultivation, and, in particular, abundance of figs; some cattle and bees kept. To this district belongs, also, the Sierra de Engarceran, with 990 inhabitants; a ridge that is tolerably well cultivated, and covered with detached habitations.

12. DISTRICT FROM CABANES TO SAN MATEO.

In tolerable cultivation; population increasing. Cabánes, with 1,620 inhabitants; abun-

dance of wheat and algarrobas. Benloc, with 1,125 inhabitants, who likewise subsist entirely by agriculture. Villa-Nueva, with 180 inhabitants. Torreblanca, with 1,080 inhabitants ; some fabrics of palmitos ; many quarries of gypsum between Alcala and Villa-Nueva.

Cuevas, a town with 1,800 inhabitants ; cultivation tolerable, and excellent cattle ; six distilleries. Serratella, a village with 225 inhabitants. Albocasee, a village with 1,350 inhabitants ; great numbers of cattle. Salsadella, with 1,125 inhabitants. Tirig, a village with 225 inhabitants ; great poverty. San Mateo, 2,700 inhabitants ; some manufactures of hemp, and abundance of swine.

13. DISTRICT OF CERVERA AND CALIG.

Very mountainous, and partly uncultivated. Cervera, with 1,350 inhabitants ; on a steep rock ; wants water, and on that account barren ; excellent quarries of marble, especially at Trinchera. Calig, with 2,385 inhabitants ; great industry, and cultivation tolerable.

14. DISTRICT FROM ARES TO ADSANETA.

Very mountainous, and scarcely one-eighth under cultivation ; many woods of pine-trees ;

excellent cattle. Ares, a town with 900 inhabitants; agriculture and grazing. Villafranca, with 1,575 inhabitants; manufactures of wool and soap. Benasal, with 2,250 inhabitants; excellent cattle. Culla, 900 inhabitants; great indigence. Adsaneta, with 1,800 inhabitants; in tolerable cultivation. Chodos, seated on a rock 400 feet high, with 250 inhabitants; want and indigence. Upon the whole a very wild and picturesque country.

15. DISTRICT FROM VISTABELLA TO ARGELITA.

Wild, mountainous, and chiefly uncultivated, like the preceding. Vistabella, with 1,800 inhabitants; manufactures of cloth, and grazing. Villahermosa, with 1,575 inhabitants; good farmers, and very industrious. Cortes, with 830 inhabitants; manufactures of wool, flax, and hemp. Zucayna, with 670 inhabitants; linen manufactures and breeding of swine. Argelita, with 431 inhabitants; tolerable cultivation. The Peuaglosa, the highest of all the Valencian mountains in the north.

16. DISTRICT FROM ALCALATEN TO RIBES-ALBES.

Mountainous, but much more fertile than the former. Lucena, with 1,800 inhabitants;

land in good cultivation. Figueroles, with 450 inhabitants; fine quarries of marble. Useras, with 1,800 inhabitants; abundance of mast for swine. Costur, with 450 inhabitants; among bare rocks; industrious cultivation.

Alcora, with 2,400 inhabitants; fine country; manufactures of porcelain and stone-ware; the people industrious and opulent. Ribes-Albes, 700 inhabitants; agriculture and coarse earthen-ware; opulence and increasing population.

II. MIDDLE PORTION OF THE PROVINCE.

Between Castello de la Plana and San Felipe, chiefly along the coast; extremely pleasant and fertile; climate delicious; vegetation luxuriant; the finest part of this division, which in reference to the mountainous portion, is distinguished by the name of Plana; the population nearly twice as great.

1. DISTRICT OF ONDA.

As soon as you have passed the Millares, enchantingly fertile. Onda, a town in a very picturesque situation, at the foot of a hill, with 4,500 inhabitants, who principally subsist by agriculture, though there is also a manufactory of earthen-ware at this place.

2. DISTRICT OF CASTELLO DE LA PLANA.

The country gradually grows more level, and improves in fertility and beauty. St. Castello, a league from the sea, with 13,000 inhabitants; fine huerta, and great abundance; manufactures of hemp. Almajóra, a league from the sea, with 4,500 inhabitants; flourishing agriculture; the *pimentones* of this place celebrated throughout all Spain; some of them weigh five or six ounces. Burriana, with 6,300 inhabitants; the same high state of cultivation. Villareal, with 6,750 inhabitants; flourishing agriculture; silk and woollen manufactures. Bochi, with 1,595 inhabitants; cultivation somewhat inferior, but numerous potteries.

3. DISTRICT FROM NULES TO MONCOFA.

Nules, a town with 4,500 inhabitants; great quantities of figs. Villavella, 1,116 inhabitants, with a mineral spring, which is much frequented, and brings a good deal of money into the village. Mascarell, 475 inhabitants. Moncofa, 900 inhabitants; the country is subject to frequent inundations, on which account

agriculture is neglected, and the circumstances of the people are less easy. Chilches, with 900 inhabitants; manufactures of hemp. Llosa de Almenara, with 585 inhabitants; agriculture not so flourishing.

4. DISTRICT OF UXO.

Town of Uxo, with 2,400 inhabitants; high state of cultivation; manufactures of alpargates and earthen-ware. Almenara, with 1,800 inhabitants; very unhealthy on account of the neighbouring marshes.

5. DISTRICT OF MURVIEDRO.

Called Valle de Sego, with a great number of detached habitations, comprehending about 4,500 inhabitants; careful cultivation; bees. Murviedro, a town on the right bank of the Palancio, with 6,810 inhabitants; land in good cultivation, especially the vineyards, which produce annually 168,000 cantaros. Canet, half a league from Murviedro, with 450 inhabitants, who are good farmers. Gilet, with 475 inhabitants. Petres, with 480 inhabitants; high cultivation. Estivella, with 900 inhabitants. Algimia, Torres-Torres, and Alfara, comprehending together, 1,971 inhabitants; the popu-

lation of this district is constantly increasing, and every where industry and activity prevail. Algar, with 575 inhabitants; charcoal burning.

6. DISTRICT OF VALENCIA.

Next to the Huerta of Gandia, that of Valencia is incontestably the most beautiful part of this enchanting coast. Hence the population of the many small villages scattered over it may be estimated at 58,000. Every part of it is in the highest state of cultivation; on which subject see various articles in this work.

Valencia, with 105,000 inhabitants. Puzol, 2,997 inhabitants; fine botanic garden. El Puig, 1,575 inhabitants. Refelbunnol, 900 inhabitants. Foyos, about the same number. Alboraya, 2,520 inhabitants. Benimaclet, 280 inhabitants. El Grao, the port and the small places dependent on it, upwards of 5,000 inhabitants. Campanar, 1,350 inhabitants. Benimamet, 1,260 inhabitants. Burjasot, 1,440 inhabitants. Museros, a commandery of St. Jago, 725 inhabitants. Betera, 1,800 inhabitants; esparto-manufactures. La Pobla, 1,350 inhabitants. Benaguacil, 3,150 inhabitants. Villamarchante, 400 inhabitants; fine quarries of marble. Ribaroja, 1,200 inhabitants. Patrona, upwards of 1,000 inhabitants.

Manises, 1,100 inhabitants; good earthen-ware. Torrent, 5,400 inhabitants; besides other small places too numerous to mention.

All these villages and places are scattered along both banks of the Turia, and are distinguished by the care bestowed on the irrigation of their lands, and the extreme fertility of the latter. Great quantities of rice were formerly raised here; but it was very injurious to population. Since the cultivation of that grain was relinquished, the population has in twenty years increased one half. Many quarries of lime-stone, gypsum, marble, &c. especially at Ninnerola, Sabac, &c.

7. DISTRICT FROM MONTSERRAT TO CARLET AND CATARROJA.

Montserrat, 736 inhabitants; high cultivation; particularly beautiful vineyards, producing annually near 30,000 cantaros. Monterey, 630 inhabitants; a great number of small places, comprehending together about 3,000 inhabitants. St. Carlet, 4,500 inhabitants; in high cultivation. Rusafa, upwards of 5,000 inhabitants; vast quantities of vegetables. Masanosa, 1,476 inhabitants. Catarroja, 3,000 inhabitants, who principally subsist by the fisheries in the Albufera; rice.

8. DISTRICT OF RIBERAS DEL XUCAR.

The cultivation of rice is not only injurious to population, but likewise to that of other productions, as we have shewn in a particular article on the subject. In fifty-seven years, the number of inhabitants has sustained a diminution in these parts of 16,000 souls.

Silla, about 2,000 inhabitants; the least unwholesome place in this district. Almusafes, 1,100 inhabitants; the soil very fertile, but from want of hands, not half of it under cultivation. Benifayo, 1,300 inhabitants, who have begun to lay out the rice-fields at a greater distance from their houses, which has produced a decrease in the mortality. Algniel, 2,000 inhabitants; the culture of rice diminished, and the population on the increase. Sollana, 900 inhabitants; intermittent fevers very common. Sueca, 4,800 inhabitants; almost entirely surrounded with rice-fields. Cullera, near 5,000 inhabitants; tolerably healthy, on account of its proximity to the sea; abundance of vegetables, corn, and fruit.

Algemesi, 4,500 inhabitants; frequent inundations. Alcudia, upwards of 2,000 inhabitants; since the decline of the cultivation of rice, abundance of other productions, and in-

crease of population. Several other small places, which are in part very unhealthy, and entirely surrounded with morasses. St. Carcaixent, 5,900 inhabitants; a neat, clean place, and on account of its distance from the rice-plantations, tolerably healthy; agriculture flourishing; oranges and pomegranates. Alcira, 9,000 inhabitants, on an island in the Xucar.

9. DISTRICT OF VALLDIGNA.

Mountainous and full of marble-quarries, especially near Buixcarro. In the valley, the villages of Taberna, 4,000 inhabitants; Benifayro, 900 inhabitants; Simat, 1,300 inhabitants; state of cultivation tolerable; very fine algarrobos.

10. DISTRICT FROM SAN FELIPE TO FONT LA HIGUERA.

San Felipe, 14,000 inhabitants, at the foot of Mount Bernisa, with a castle; country well cultivated; agreeable walks; fertile and well watered. Huerta, about two square leagues in extent. Llosa, on an eminence, with 1,000 inhabitants; quarries of gypsum. A great number of small places with near 2,200 inhabitants; some parchment made here. Canals, 700 inhabitants; much earthen ware; manufactures of aloes

Montesa, since the great earthquake on the 23d May, 1748, only 900 inhabitants; badly cultivated and wants water. Valloda, 1,980 inhabitants; good soil; quarries of gypsum. Moixent, 3,800 inhabitants; charming country; in high cultivation. Font de la Higuera, 2,250 inhabitants; tolerably well cultivated, and the climate somewhat colder, on account of the northern situation.

III. THE WESTERN PART OF THE PROVINCE.

From the frontiers of Murcia and Castile, to the beginning of the middle part, in general wild, rugged, mountainous and barren, and thinly peopled.

1. DISTRICT OF AYOVA.

Cultivation tolerable, but not fertile. Ayova, a neat, cheerful town, with 5,850 inhabitants; vineyards and olives; several insignificant places; some quarries of gypsum.

2. DISTRICT OF COFRENTES.

Consisting almost entirely of fertile valleys, well cultivated and abundantly supplied with

water. Zarra, 1,300 inhabitants; olives and fruit; some coarse woollen stuffs. Teresa, 2,200 inhabitants; cattle, and manufactures of coarse cloths. Xarafnel, 2,000 inhabitants, and Xalance, 800 inhabitants; a little agriculture and trade in timber. Cofrentes, 1,200 inhabitants; the warmest part of the district; silk and wine; raisins 12,000 arrobas.

3. DISTRICT F.

DE PALLAS TO ENGUERA.

Cultivation tolerable, as far as the soil permits; great numbers of pines, beech-trees, &c. Cortes de Pallas, a village with 360 inhabitants; cattle, and upon the whole great attention to agriculture; manufactures of alpargates. Millares, 600 inhabitants, who almost entirely subsist by the manufacture of alpargates; sixty dozen pair are made daily, and each pair is sold for six quartos (about three halfpence.)

Quesa, 450 inhabitants; fine cattle. Bicorp, a neat village with 470 inhabitants, who carry on a considerable trade in timber and cattle, and are in tolerably easy circumstances. Enguera, 5,000 inhabitants; manufactures of coarse cloth and breeding of cattle; the former give employment to 3,000 persons.

4. DISTRICT OF NAVARRÉS AND SUMACARCEL.

Nearly resembles the preceding. Navarrés, 1,400 inhabitants; many olive-plantations and breeding of cattle. Bolbayte, 450 inhabitants; industrious farmers, but the soil very ungrateful. Chella, 400 inhabitants; manufactures of coarse woollens, and some cattle. Anna, 480 inhabitants; fulling-mills; paper-mills. Sumacarcél, 900 inhabitants; land well cultivated; fine marble-quarries at Argoleges.

5. DISTRICT OF TURIS AND BUNNOL.

Chiefly barren and scarcely one third under cultivation. Turis, a town with 2,000 inhabitants; land in as good cultivation as the want of water permits. Bunnol, 1,900 inhabitants; manufactures of coarse cloth; a picturesque and well cultivated country. Sieteaguas, 1,170 inhabitants; woollen manufactures; quarries of gypsum; cattle. Yátoba, 1,100 inhabitants; some cattle, but agriculture much neglected. Macastre, 630 inhabitants. Alboraix, 450 inhabitants; agriculture pursued with great assiduity in both.

6. DISTRICT OF CHIVA AND CHESTE.

Very wild, mountainous, and barren; more than one third uncultivated, but in high cultivation towards the plain. Chiva, a town with 2,300 inhabitants. Godelleta, 670 inhabitants. Cheste, upwards of 2,000 inhabitants; cattle; manufactures of esparto; carriage of goods.

7. DISTRICT OF LIRIA.

Consists chiefly of a plain, surrounded by mountains, on the declivities of which are the following places:—Naquera, 500 inhabitants; land well cultivated; fine marble-quarries. Serra, 700 inhabitants; charcoal-burning and esparto-wares. Liria, a town with 9,000 inhabitants; high cultivation, especially in the Campo de Liria, or plain; manufactures of earthen-ware, linen, and esparto; distilleries, soap-manufactories, carriage of goods; inhabitants in easy circumstances.

8. DISTRICT FROM PEDRALBA TO CHULILLO.

A wild, mountainous country, partly covered with wood. Pedralba, 1,210 inhabitants. Bugarra, 670; esparto wares. Chestalgar, 600 in-

habitants ; soil fertile, but badly cultivated for want of hands. Chulilla, 675 inhabitants ; land well cultivated, and people in easy circumstances. La Losa, 750 inhabitants. Villar de Benadaf, 600 inhabitants ; industry and increasing population.

9. DISTRICT OF CHELVA.

More level, better cultivated, and well watered. Loriguilla, 450 inhabitants. Callas, 1,300 inhabitants ; great quantities of charcoal burned there. Chelva, a town with 7,200 inhabitants ; soil very fertile, abounding in springs ; trade with excellent late grapes, to the annual amount of 6,000 piastres ; carriage of goods and manufacture of alpargates ; extraordinary industry and activity of the inhabitants, who are remarkable for their excellent dispositions.

Tuexar 2,200 inhabitants ; high cultivation, and great fertility. Sinarcas, 675 inhabitants ; breeding of cattle. Titaguas, 900 inhabitants ; little agriculture, want of water, and poverty. Aras, 950 inhabitants ; agriculture tolerable, but discouraged by the inclemency of the climate.

10. DISTRICT OF ADEMAZ.

Bordering on Arragon and Castile ; chiefly mountainous and barren. Santa Cruz, 675 inhabitants ; indigence and misery. Vallanca, 400 inhabitants ; many bees. Castelfabib, 1,170 inhabitants ; cultivation tolerable ; excellent walnuts. Ademuz, 3,150 inhabitants ; picturesque and tolerably well cultivated country. Puebla de San Miguel, 650 inhabitants ; cattle and bees.

11. DISTRICT OF ALPUENTE.

Nearly resembling the preceding, but fertile here and there in the valleys. Yesa, 640 inhabitants, who chiefly attend to the breeding of sheep. Andilla, a town with 900 inhabitants. In the principal church, many fine pictures by Ribalta. Alcublas, 1,963 inhabitants ; quarries of excellent marble. Alpuente, 1,800 inhabitants ; agricultural pursuits.

12. DISTRICT OF SEGORBE.

In general, fertile and in high cultivation. Segorbe, a neat, clean town, with 5,000 inhabitants, who are distinguished for their industry ;

huerta in high cultivation; manufactures of earthen-ware, paper, and starch; distilleries; marble-quarries.

Soneja, 1,140 inhabitants; land well cultivated; abundance of figs raised. Xeldo, 760 inhabitants. Altura, 2,200 inhabitants; lands in high cultivation; produce, among other things, 100,000 cantaros of wine. Xerica, 3,800 inhabitants. Viber, 2,200 inhabitants; the warmest part of the whole district; great quantities of wine and fruit raised here; and part of the inhabitants engaged in the breeding of cattle. Teresa, 900 inhabitants; picturesque situation; soil well cultivated. Several small places, whose population is but trifling.

13. DISTRICT OF AYODAR.

Very wild, mountainous, and barren. Ayodar, 450 inhabitants; poverty and misery. Gaybiel, 1,125 inhabitants, and Suéras, 740; in rather better cultivation. Artana, 3,150 inhabitants; as well cultivated as the soil permits; manufactures of esparto. Eslida, 710 inhabitants; a productive huerta, since measures have been adopted for irrigation; manufactures of esparto.

Between Artana and Eslida, mines of quicksilver, which have, however, been relinquished.

A great number of small places, the population and industry of which are insignificant.

IV. THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE PROVINCE.

Extending from Albada to the frontiers of Murcia. Fine valleys, open towards the coast, between lofty ranges of mountains, whose branches are gradually lost in low promontories. In the plains, a mild climate, high cultivation, great fertility, numerous fabrics and manufactures, and a daily increasing population.

1. DISTRICT OF ALBAYDA.

A charming valley, but exposed to the destructive north winds, in the neighbourhood of San Felipe, where the mountains leave an opening; for which reason the crops of wines, olives, and algarrobas, are precarious. Ontinent, 11,700 inhabitants; woollen and linen manufactures, paper-mills, copper-forges; flourishing agriculture; trade in figs, of which 25,000 arrobas are annually raised.

Ayelo, 1,989 inhabitants; linen-manufactures. La Olleria, 3,960 inhabitants; linen-manufactures, glass-houses. Agullent, 1,200 inhabitants; manufactures of coarse woollens. Ad-

saneta, with 900, and Albayda 3,200 inhabitants ; manufactures of esparto and linen ; establishments for bleaching wax ; soap-houses.

La Pobla, 1,668 inhabitants, and Salem 500 ; not so well cultivated, but manufactures of esparto and alpargates. Castello de Rugat, 640 inhabitants ; highly cultivated ; manufactures of earthen-ware ; quarries of gypsum. Beniganin, 3,600 inhabitants ; great quantities of wine and *arrope*. A great number of small, populous places, the productions of whose industry and agriculture are considerable.

2. DISTRICT OF GANDIA.

The most beautiful, fertile, and delightful of any in the whole province ; the highest degree of southern charms and cultivation ; abundance, opulence, and daily increasing population ; silk manufactures.

Gandia, a town on the left bank of the Alcoy, with 6,300 inhabitants ; an extremely neat and cheerful place ; the *huerta* a paradise ; many silk-looms, particularly for ribbons and light stuffs ; some linen. Twenty other small villages in the neighbourhood of the town. Oliva, 5,000 inhabitants, who subsist entirely by agriculture, though the soil is inferior to that of Gandia.

3. DISTRICT FROM PEGO TO PLANES.

Country in high cultivation, even to the tops of the less elevated mountains. Pego, a neat village, with 5,000 inhabitants; linen-manufactures. Alcalá de la Jovada, 500 inhabitants; coarse woollen stuffs. Planes, 1,170 inhabitants; flourishing agriculture; potteries.

4. DISTRICT OF CONCENTAYNA.

Mountainous, and very unequally cultivated. Liorja, 1,200 inhabitants; excellent apricots, of which 60,000 arrobas are annually raised. Gayannes, 500 inhabitants. Concentayna, 5,000 inhabitants; cloth-manufactures; wool spun for those of Alcoy; agriculture assiduously pursued, among the productions of which are 36,000 cantaros of wine. Muro, 2,000 inhabitants; assiduous attention to agriculture and horticulture.

5. DISTRICT FROM MARIOLA TO BIAR.

Wild and mountainous, but as highly cultivated as circumstances permit. Agres, 1,260 inhabitants; trade in snow; excellent pulse. Alsafara, 595 inhabitants; spinning of wool.

Bocayrént, 5,850 inhabitants; woollen, linen, and soap manufactures, distilleries, paper-mills, manufactures of alpargates; agriculture flourishing; universal opulence and activity.

Banneres, a town with 2,228 inhabitants; woollen manufactures, distilleries, paper-mills. Benijama, 1,428 inhabitants. Biar, 2,800 inhabitants; manufactures of linen, earthen-ware, and alpargates; tile-kilns; bees; trade in excellent honey, remarkable for its taste of rosemary; some cattle.

6. DISTRICT OF HOYA DE CASTALLA.

Fertile dales inclosed with mountains; towards the coast the climate very mild, and the country in high cultivation. Castalla, a town with 2,800 inhabitants; distilleries; manufactures of linen and alpargates; in general great industry and activity. Ouil, 2,400 inhabitants; potteries and manufactures of cloth; great quantities of aniseed and vegetables; quarries of gypsum, lime-stone, and marble. Ibi, 3,200 inhabitants; lucrative trade in snow; spinning of wool; fine almond trees. Tibi, 1,200 inhabitants; in the neighbouring mountains is the great pantano for watering the Huerta de Alicante. Xixona, 4,400 inhabitants; flourishing agriculture; fine potatoes; great quantities of fruit in general.

7. DISTRICT FROM ALCOY TO LAGUAR.

Wild and mountainous, but tolerably well cultivated. Alcoy, 14,600 inhabitants; a neat, clean town, full of fabrics and manufactures, and particularly of wool. Thirty-three paper-mills, which in part supply the neighbouring provinces.

A great number of small places, which are pretty populous, and the inhabitants of which are principally employed for the manufactures of Alcoy. Gorga, 450 inhabitants; agriculture pursued with extraordinary assiduity. Orba, 400 inhabitants; fabrics of palmitos. Several small villages on the declivities of the mountains, some of which are pretty populous.

8. DISTRICT OF DENIA.

Consists principally of fine valleys, open to the coast, and tolerably well cultivated. Pedréguer, 1,600 inhabitants; olives, almonds, and algarrobas in abundance. Andara, a town with 1,200 inhabitants; much silk raised here. Denia, 2,000 inhabitants; a beautiful huerta and excellent wine. Considerable trade in raisins, of which 12,000 arrobas are annually made: some woollen and linen manufactures.

Castell de Castello, 800 inhabitants; abundance of lavender and preparations from it. Many small places where agriculture is very flourishing; fabrics of palmitos—that plant being found in great abundance on the barren mountains. Xabea, 4,000 inhabitants on the sea-coast; fine country and the air extremely salubrious; some of the inhabitants engaged in the fisheries, but a much greater number in agriculture.

9. DISTRICT FROM GRANADELLA TO VILLAJOSYA.

A narrow plain along the coast, which is here almost invariably rocky. Benitachell, 400 inhabitants; great quantities of raisins. Trullada, 1,600 inhabitants; agriculture; linen-manufactures. Senija, 400 inhabitants; fabrics of palmitos. Penisa, 3,200 inhabitants; the best raisins or *pasas* in all Valencia.

Calp, 890 inhabitants; fishery; brisk contraband trade. Callosa, on the declivity of the mountains, with 3,200 inhabitants; agriculture; manufacture of alpargates. Bolulla, 400 inhabitants. Quarries of excellent marble between the two last places. Altea, 4,800 inhabitants; fishery; some cotton. Agriculture pursued, upon the whole, with assiduity.

Benidorm, 2,400 inhabitants; tunny-fishery;

great activity; spinning of wool. Finestrat, 1,600 inhabitants; great quantities of esparto wares. Villajoyosa, 4,800 inhabitants, assiduously employed in agriculture; esparto wares, especially fishing nets. Sella, 1,600 inhabitants. A great number of small places peopled by industrious inhabitants. Population daily increasing.

10. DISTRICT OF ALICANTE.

Consisting of valleys, excellent land, of which even the declivities of the mountains are in tillage. Alicante, between 19 and 20,000 inhabitants; charming huerta; commerce; fisheries; manufactures of esparto, especially for the navy. San Vicente del Raspeig, 3,200 inhabitants; great quantities of barilla; numberless hamlets and *alforins* (farms) scattered over the huerta, the population of which is daily increasing, and cannot be estimated at less than 8,000 souls. Agost, 1,600 inhabitants, farther in the mountains. Petrel, 2,000 inhabitants; excellent wine; and especially the Valensi-grapes, as they are denominated, which keep till February.

11. DISTRICT OF ELDA.

Mountainous, but very fertile in the plain, and upon the whole in excellent cultivation.

Elda, a town with 4,000 inhabitants ; distilleries, manufactures of soap, linen, and esparto ; paper-mills, tile-kilns. Salinas, 320 inhabitants, and Monovar, 8,000 inhabitants ; linen-manufactures ; flourishing agriculture. Novelda, 900 inhabitants ; wholesome air and beautiful situation ; esparto-wares. Monforte, 3,200 inhabitants ; linen-manufactures. Aspe, 5,000 inhabitants ; country highly cultivated and very fertile. Quarries of fine marble.

12. DISTRICT OF ELCHE.

Plain country—excellent soil—one of the finest districts in the province ; next to the Huertas of Gandia, Valencia, Alicante, and Castalla. Elche, 20,000 inhabitants, partly scattered in alforins, or farms ; cultivation of palm-trees and trade in their produce ; neatness and opulence ; fabrics of esparto, palms, and palmitos. Crevillent, 7,200 inhabitants ; high cultivation ; industry of the inhabitants, especially in respect to irrigation ; manufactures of esparto and junco.

13. DISTRICT OF ORIHUELA.

Resembles the preceding ; between Elche and Orihuela, the *Pias Fundaciones*, as they are

called. Orihuela, 20,000 inhabitants; admirable huerta, almost equal in beauty to that of Alicante; the best oranges; distilleries; abundance and opulence.

Albatera, 2,400 inhabitants. La Grango, 800 inhabitants; great quantities of silk raised here. Catrál, 1,600 inhabitants; manufactures of linen and alpargates. Numerous small places where agriculture is carried to the highest perfection. Salinas de la Mata, and Torre la Mata, principally inhabited by the labourers belonging to those works, to the number of 250.

APPENDIX.

No. II.

THE BALEARIC ISLANDS.

MALLORCA, OR MAJORCA.

Mallorca, situated between $8^{\circ} 32' 35''$ and $9^{\circ} 40' 40''$ east longitude from Cadiz, and between $39^{\circ} 15' 45''$ and $39^{\circ} 57' 15''$ north latitude, is 25 leagues from the coast of Spain, 45 from that of Africa, 15 from Ivica, and 9 from Minorca. It is the largest of the Balearic Islands, comprehending 1,234 geographical square miles, and a population of 135,906 souls.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The island is divided into two parts by a lofty range of hills running from north-east to south-west. Both of these comprehend fifty-two places, among which there are only two towns of any consequence, and twenty-eight

small towns ; all the rest being only small villages. Numberless detached farms and country-houses are scattered over the whole island.

The capital of Mallorca is Palma, an agreeable town situated in a delightful country. It has a population of 29,529 souls, is the residence of the governor-general of the Balearic and Pithyusian Islands, and the see of a bishop, and is said to be pretty strongly fortified. Its mole is 4,380 Castilian feet in length, but the only anchorage is on the north side.

With respect to the interior of Palma, the streets are narrow and dark ; but the houses are in general well built, some are even magnificent, and all are constructed with massive solidity. Within these few years the pavements which were before very bad, have been improved, and in the superior quarters a beginning has been made towards the lighting of the city.

Among the public buildings, the *palacio* or residence of the governor-general is worthy of notice ; at least, on account of its situation, its capaciousness, and its extensive gardens. The other edifices deserving the attention of a stranger are, the cathedral, a fine monument of Gothic architecture, the episcopal palace with its spacious garden, the magnificent exchange, the theatre, the town-house, &c. About twelve years since an *alameda*, or public walk, was

made from the *Puerta de Jesus*, to the convent of that name.

The road of *Palma* is excellent, but in tempests from the south-east during the winter months, the waves rush in with great violence. The little harbour, called *Puerto Pi*, where the largest frigates may ride at anchor, is more secure, but unfortunately it is often choked with the mud deposited by a mountain torrent, which in winter discharges itself into it. For the rest, the road and port are protected by two castles; the former by the *Castillo de San Carlos*, and the latter by the *Castillo de Belber*.

Proceeding eastward along the coast from *Palma*, among other more considerable towns of the island, we first come to *Lluch Mayor*, with 5,427 inhabitants, situated in an enchanting plain. Two leagues farther lies *Campos*, with 2,381 inhabitants, remarkable for its hot mineral waters for all kinds of cutaneous diseases, and for its salt works.

Still farther eastward is situated *Santenay*, a very well built town, with 2,842 inh. celebrated for its excellent stone-quarries. Three leagues from *Santenay* is *Falaniche*, with 6,800 inh. This town is celebrated for its good brandy, and which deserves to be visited on account of a neighbouring hermitage, seated on the sum-

mit of a picturesque rock, a place to which the pious Mallorcans go in pilgrimage, and which commands an enchanting prospect.

Four leagues from Falaniche, lies Manacor, with 5,963 inhabitants. It is situated in a very fertile plain, and distinguished for the elegance of its houses, which are principally inhabited by gentry.

Towards the north-east we find the large, but dull town of Alcudia, with scarcely 800 inhabitants, which, notwithstanding its excellent situation, and beautiful bay, threatens to continue progressively to decline. Unfortunately, this district is one of the most barren and unhealthy of any in the island, which sufficiently accounts for the continual decrease in population.

To the west-north-west lies the neat, clean town of Pollenza, only a league distant from the fine bay of the same name, with 4,454 inhabitants, in a pleasant fertile valley, studded with detached farm-houses. Next comes Soler, with 5,614 inhabitants; it is situated in a still more beautiful and fertile valley, which, from its position at the foot of a lofty range of mountains, enjoys the mildest climate of any part of the island. Here are grown southern fruits of every description, and, in particular, astonishing quantities of oranges.

We have still to notice Bannalbufar on the western coast, with 3,345 inhabitants ; it is celebrated for its excellent wine, which is accounted the best produced in Mallorca.

In every part of the island, especially in the beautiful valley of Pollenza, Soler, Palma, &c. you meet with a multitude of elegant country-houses, where the numerous nobility and gentry of Mallorca, who are extremely attached to a country life, generally spend the greatest part of the year. It is, however, to be regretted, that the roads, especially those over the mountains, are in such a wretched state throughout the whole island.

CLIMATE, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS.

The climate of Mallorca is exceedingly mild, salubrious, and agreeable. In the winter months, the thermometer scarcely ever falls below 48° , and is often as high as from 60° to 68° . Cold and violent north winds are very rare. In the summer months the thermometer stands almost invariably between 84° and 88° ; but the heat, owing to the constant sea-breezes, is never too oppressive.

As to the soil, that varies very much in the different parts of the island. In the mountainous regions it is very rich, and spontane-

ously produces great numbers of wild olive-trees, &c. in the plains it is much less fertile, especially in places where it contracts too much humidity. In this respect, however, the nature of the situations cannot fail to produce many exceptions.

In the mountainous parts, which are chiefly covered with wood, have been discovered indications of gold and silver mines, of excellent quicksilver, coal, terra sigillata, marble, and other mineralogical treasures, the appropriation of which seems, however, to be reserved for future times.

The productions of the island are as follow:—

Wheat, in much less quantity than is necessary for the consumption of the island, especially in wet years, when the crops sometimes totally fail.

Oil, in great abundance. The inhabitants apply themselves with great assiduity to the cultivation of olives, which they look upon as their staple production. The olives are smaller than those of Andalusia, but as juicy as the best of the growth of Provence. The operations of gathering and pressing them are performed with great care; and you may even meet, here and there, with mills for this purpose, with stones made of jasper.

Wine, both red and white, in abundance.

The best grows upon the hills near Bannalbufar. What is not consumed in the island, or exported, is used by the inhabitants for the distillation of brandy. The greatest quantity, and of the strongest kind, is made at Falaniche.

Fruit, in great abundance, and of all kinds, the principal of which are dates, oranges, figs, melons, almonds, capers, and cedras.

Vegetables, in great quantities, and of excellent quality, especially beans, pumkins, and cauliflowers.

Saffron, in rather less quantity. It is, however, superior in quality to that of La Mancha.

Some *silk*.

Not much attention is here paid to the breeding of cattle, though there is no want of pasturage. To judge from the sheep and pigs* of Mallorca, horned cattle could not fail to thrive there. The inhabitants seem to prefer the breeding of mules; and the asses of Mallorca are held in great request. Vast numbers of them are sent to the southern provinces of Spain.

The island likewise abounds with feathered game, especially partridges, snipes, and birds of

* Mallorcan swine have been known to attain the weight of 440 and even of 600 pounds. One of these, which was only a year and a half old, may be seen, stuffed, in the cabinet of natural history at Madrid.

passage of all kinds. Hares and rabbits are also very plentiful. The coasts swarm with fish, which, however, are not the best flavoured; but good muscles, oysters, &c. are in great abundance.

COMMERCE.

The exports of Mallorca are: oil to the Spanish coasts and the islands; wine and brandy to England and the north; capers to the coasts and to France; southern fruits, especially oranges, to England, to the north, and to the islands; some silk, saffron, vegetables, sheep, swine, and mules, to the coast.

The other exports consist of baskets and brooms of palm, to Marseilles; turnery to the coasts and to the islands; earthen-ware to Iviça; coarse woollens and linens to the islands; finally, a kind of varnished water-proof hats for sailors, to the coasts, to England, France, and Genoa, in considerable quantity.*

The imports consist of wheat, salt beef, iron, sugar, groceries, fine linen, skins, woollen cloth, hardware, and articles of luxury, chiefly from

* The black are the best and most durable; the varnish in time wears entirely off those of other colours.

the coasts and from France, and in less quantity from England and the north. Upon the whole, the balance of trade appears to be in favour of Mallorca.

INHABITANTS.

The inhabitants of Mallorca bear a striking resemblance, both physical and moral, to the Catalans. They are equally robust and courageous; equally blunt and jealous of their honour; equally industrious and ingenious; equally good sailors and farmers with their continental neighbours; and their language is, in fact, nothing but a corrupt dialect of the Catalan. Of their attention to agriculture, and the numerous productions of their industry we have already treated, and we shall therefore add nothing farther on that subject.

It is not improbable that the Mallorcans of the present day would have distinguished themselves in the sciences, had they but institutions calculated to promote their progress. Thus, for instance, the ancient university of Palma, which may be said to be in the last stage of lethargy, wants a thorough reform; thus too, the inferior schools in the districts ought to be organized on a plan totally new.

The Patriotic Society of Mallorca, whose efforts cannot be too highly extolled, has nevertheless founded a free-school for drawing and mathematics, and also a naval academy, which are both well filled with pupils.

HINTS FOR STRANGERS.

There are at Palma two public libraries, the episcopal library and that belonging to the town. The latter is the most copious; it contains a great number of scarce Spanish works, and some interesting manuscripts relative to the history of the south of Spain.

Palma has also two printing-offices, in one of which is printed the *diario*, or daily newspaper, besides an extract from the gazette of Barcelona, and a weekly miscellany on the subject of rural and domestic economy.

At Palma are to be seen a great number of capital pictures by Raphael, Julio Romano, Correggio, Titian, Paul Veronese, Rubens, Vandyke, and many other first-rate masters, which are well worth the attention of the stranger. From the cordiality and candour of the Mallorcans, German travellers in particular may without difficulty obtain access to these treasures.

Thus you find, for instance, at the house of the Marquis de Villafranca, a sketch of Raphael's Transfiguration ; in the possession of Don Juan de Salas, Christ upon Golgotha, the Virgin Mary, St. John, and Mary Magdalen, by Raphael ; and at M. Berard's, a Madonna and Child, likewise by Raphael.

At the Marquis de Campo Franco's you are shewn Mary with the dead body of Christ, by Julio Romano ; at Don Raymon Fortunny's, the Madonna with the infant Jesus, and St. John, by Correggio ; and at Don Antonio Berard's, a Christ, and the Madonna and Child, by Titian. Don Pedro Vidal possesses several large pieces by Paul Veronese ; and Don Juan de Salas, a St. Jerome, by Rubens. In the town-house you meet with a St. Sebastian, by Vandyke ; not to mention a multitude of other pictures by Spanish and Mallorcan artists, as, for instance, Conca, Bestard, Mesquida, &c. which the connoisseur will easily distinguish.

Palma, besides, contains several good cabinets of natural curiosities, which, in respect to insular productions in particular are very complete. One of the most copious is that of Don Christoval de Vilella, which likewise comprehends a great number of artificial curiosities ; for example, a kind of basso-relievo of the coasts of the island, composed entirely of

various species of native sea-weed, shells, wood, &c.

It may not be superfluous finally to remark, that Don Buenaventura Serra, who is known as the author of several tracts on the History of Minorca,* and died in 1784, has left behind him in manuscript a complete natural history of the island, accompanied with drawings, which is deposited in the city library. It is designed to make four volumes in folio, two of which are occupied with a Flora of Mallorca.

II. MINORCA.

Minorca, situated between $10^{\circ} 9' 20''$ and $10^{\circ} 42' 15''$ east longitude from Cadiz, and between $39^{\circ} 47'$ and $40^{\circ} 41' 45''$ north latitude, contains 236 geographic square miles, and a population of 26,991 souls. It is divided into the four districts, or *terminos*, of Mahon, Alayor, Mercadel, and Ciudadella.

* *Glorias de Mallorca. En Palma*, 1769, 4to. only one volume of which was published; besides numerous dissertations on particular points of the history of Mallorca.

TOPOGRAPHY.

I. MAHON.

The whole district comprehends 14,000 inhabitants ; the capital is Mahon, situated on an eminence which commands the whole harbour.

Mahon is upon the whole well built, chiefly in the English style, and it is greatly indebted to the English also in respect to paving, lighting &c. From the foot of the eminence on which the town is seated runs a handsome mole, with splendid naval magazines, where the largest ships may ride at anchor.

Beyond the ancient walls of Mahon, which are here and there visible, and nearer to the entrance of the harbour, is a succession of new quarters, which may in some measure be looked upon as suburbs. Among these Calle del Arabal towards the west, and La Arrabaleta to the south are distinguished for elegance and cleanliness.

The harbour of Mahon is one of the safest and most capacious in the world, three large squadrons having more than once been seen in it, at a considerable distance from each other. On a small island near the entrance, and opposite

to the hither extremity of the suburbs, is situated the Lazaretto for the performance of quarantine.* On another island, of somewhat larger dimensions, nearly in the centre of the harbour, opposite to the farther extremity of the suburbs, is seated the fine naval hospital, adapted to the reception of seven hundred patients.†

At the distance of four geographic miles from Mahon lie the *Buferas*, or lagoons, separated only by a narrow ridge of sand from the sea, filled with salt water and well stocked with well flavoured sea-fish.

Opposite to them, at the distance of fifty fathoms from the shore, is the *Isla den Colom*, otherwise called *La Conejera*. It is 600 fathoms in length, 400 in breadth, and affords a retreat to astonishing numbers of wild pigeons and rabbits.

Besides these, the ruins of the castle of San-

* Hence the island has received the name of *Isleta de quarentana*.

† It seldom contains more than one hundred. One wing of this extensive building is therefore commonly made use of by the governor for his summer residence. Besides the superior salubrity and coolness of the air, this island is said to be much less infested with mosquitos. The name of the island is *Isla del Rey*.

Felipe, opposite to the mole, the oyster-fishery in the harbour, and the fortifications of Mahon, are worthy of particular attention.

2. ALAYER.

This district is eight geographical miles in length, seven in breadth, and has a population of 3,960 souls. The chief town is Alayer; it is tolerably well built, though the streets are narrow and most of them unpaved. There is not a single spring in the whole district. The inhabitants are, therefore, obliged to hoard up supplies of water in cisterns, which they contrive to keep extremely sweet.

3. MERCADEL.

Twelve geographical miles in length, and ten in breadth; the population, however, is estimated at scarcely 1,700 souls. There is nothing remarkable in the town of Mercadel; it is situated in the vicinity of the Monte del Toro, the highest mountain in the island, and which, being situated nearly in the centre of it, commands a very extensive view towards all the coasts. The Toro has the appearance of a prodigious sugar-loaf.—In this district is likewise situated the harbour of Fornells, which

though it has many shallows, is still a convenient port in cases of distress for ships bound to Marseilles.

With the district of Mercadel is united that of Ferreiras which is stated to be ten geographical miles in length, from one to four in breadth, and to contain 2,596 inhabitants. In this district, the Granga de Adaya, a charming valley two geographical miles in length and from one eighth of a mile to a mile and half in breadth, is particularly worthy of notice.

This valley has justly been denominated the paradise of Minorca, the most flourishing plantations of southern fruit-trees, the most luxuriant corn fields, the purest and mildest air, and the best water in the whole island being met with there. On account of these advantages the Granga de Adaya is covered with numbers of elegant country-houses.

4. CIUDADELLA.

Ten miles in length, from five to eight in breadth, and comprehending 6,233 inhabitants. The chief town of the same name was formerly the ancient and splendid capital of the whole island; and its harbour, which is a very good one, was therefore frequented in preference by foreign mariners. But, on its first capture by

the English, at the beginning of the last century, Mahon was declared the capital of the island, and Ciudadella gradually fell to decay. Still, however, it continues to be the favourite residence of the gentry of Minorca, so that the town yet exhibits a certain degree of luxury and vivacity.

All these districts communicate with each other by means of excellent roads, for the construction of which the island is indebted to the English, and which the Spanish government is at particular pains to maintain.

CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCTIONS.

The climate of Minorca is not near so mild and agreeable as that of Mallorca. The winter months are much colder, on account of the frequent and impetuous north winds; while those of summer are excessively hot, and accompanied with myriads of mosquitos. Upon the whole, however, the air of Minorca is by no means unhealthy.

The surface is extremely unequal, full of small eminences and vallies, so that there is not a perfect plain in the whole island. The soil of these eminences is excellent: on the other hand,

the vallies, where the soil has not been improved by art, will produce nothing.

Minorca has very few high mountains ; and even the two or three most elevated peaks of the Monte del Toro cannot sustain a comparison with the lowest of Mallorca. In many parts have been discovered indications of minerals, as iron, lead, and copper, but which, to be sure, promise no very abundant harvest to the speculator.

So much the more advantage might be derived from the quarries of marble, in which Minorca abounds to such an astonishing degree, that in many places you can scarcely dig to the depth of two inches without coming to that material. Among the different kinds are some, which, for fineness and beauty, are not to be surpassed ; but, nevertheless, very little use is made of them. The stone-quarries alone are wrought, and from these is extracted the excellent stone for building called *cantons*.

Minorca is destitute of wood. Excepting some *encinos* (*quercus ilex*) in the district of Mercadel, there are no woods in the whole island. The many devastations occasioned by wars, and the violent north winds, which are extremely injurious to plantations, are assigned as the principal causes of this scarcity.

With respect to the productions of the island, they are as follow :

Wheat and *barley*; both, especially the former, of very middling quality, and scarcely sufficient to supply two thirds of the consumption of the island.

Wine, the principal production of Minorca, of which a considerable quantity is exported. Were it not for the pernicious north winds, still more would be raised.

Wool, in great quantity, and in high request.

Cheese, excellent, so that it is even preferred in Italy to Parmesan.

Oil, very little, the north winds being extremely injurious to the trees. It may easily be conceived what mischief they occasion, when it is known, that a plantation of olives which is skreened from them is calculated to produce a profit of two hundred per cent. more than one which is not.

Honey, excellent, especially the finer sorts, and consequently in great request.

Salt, only at the salt works of Fornells, but which, on account of the length of time it takes to dissolve, cannot be used for every purpose.

Fruit. Though there is no absolute want of it, yet it is far inferior in quality and also in quantity to that of Majorca. So much the greater is the abundance of vegetables of every

description, especially in the district of Mahon, which is chiefly owing to the encouragement given to their cultivation by the English. The island likewise abounds in game, sea-fish, and small shell-fish of all kinds, of which the oysters in the harbour of Mahon are in the highest request.

For the rest, the inhabitants apply themselves to the breeding of cattle, especially of sheep and mules.

COMMERCE.

The exports consist of wine, wool, cheese, honey, wax, salt, and capers, the greatest part of which go to the coasts of Spain, the islands and Genoa, and some little to France, England, and the north.

The imports are, oil, wheat, brandy, tobacco, linen and woollen cloths, rice, wood, jewellery, groceries, cottons, and, in short, most manufactured goods and articles of luxury from Spain, France, Genoa, Mallorca, and England. The balance of trade, as may easily be imagined, is against the island.

INHABITANTS.

The inhabitants of Minorca are ardent, courageous, ingenious, and make excellent sailors.

That activity of mind which distinguishes the Mallorcans, they possess perhaps in a still higher degree ; for they are extremely lively, sociable, and addicted to conviviality. From their long intercourse with the English, the natives of the island in general, and those in the vicinity of the capital in particular, have acquired a certain polish which is not to be found among the Mallorcans. As, however, their climate is less beautiful and their soil less fertile, they cannot be compared in respect to opulence with the latter. In language, manners, and religion, they have, nevertheless, a very close affinity to each other.

Such are the Balearic islands, in which the geographer and the naturalist, the antiquary and the historian, the statistical inquirer and the moralist, will find a thousand subjects for new and important observations. Of Mallorca we have scarcely any account at all ; and though Cleghorn, Armstrong, and, above all, Lindemann, have published valuable works respecting Minorca, yet since their times the sciences have made a very rapid progress. A new tour of the Balearic islands—an accurate and complete picture of them, would prove an undertaking equally interesting and profitable.

APPENDIX.

No. III.

THE PITHYUSIAN ISLANDS.

These are Iviça, Formentera, and la Conejera. They received their names from the woods of pine-trees with which they abound, and are situated in the gulf of Valencia.

IVICA.

In $7^{\circ} 38' 12''$ east longitude from Cadiz, and $38^{\circ} 53' 16''$ north latitude. It is the most populous and extensive, being seven leagues in length, three and a half in its greatest breadth, and containing 12,800 inhabitants.

This island is divided into five *quartones* or districts, which are: el *quarton* del Llano de la Villa; el *quarton* de Santa Eulalia; el *quarton* de Balanzat; el *quarton* de Pormany, and el *quarton* de las Salinas.

I. QUARTON DEL LLANO DE LA VILLA.

This portion comprehends a district of a league and a half, with the capital Iviça, con-

taining 2,600 inhabitants. These, together with 900 persons dispersed in detached farm-houses, give a population of 3,500 inhabitants for the whole district.

Besides the castle and harbour, there is nothing worth notice at Iviça. Its port, the best in the island, is very large and commodious, sheltered from every wind except in a small space toward the south.

The anchorage is very good, but on account of the great quantity of ballast thrown into the harbour by ships that load here with salt, it frequently wants cleansing. As the bottom is composed entirely of sand, the basin might be enlarged with little trouble, and Ivica might become, in point of consequence, the second Spanish port in the whole Mediterranean Sea. The coast of this quarton extends from Cabo Andreus to Cala Quifeu.

2. QUARTON DE SANTA EULALIA.

This is the most populous quarton in the island, containing a tract of four leagues, with four thousand inhabitants. They all live dispersed in detached farm-houses (*caserias*), so that not a single village is to be seen in this quarton. Its coast commences at Salto de Serra, and extends to Cala de Benirraix.

3. QUARTON DE BALANZAT.

This quarton comprehends a tract of three leagues, and a population of 2,300 souls, distributed in detached farms. The coast reaches from Puerto Balanzat to Puig de Nono.

4. QUARTON DE PORMANY.

This quarton comprizes a tract of four leagues, with a population of 2,100 souls, likewise dispersed in scattered caserías. The coast extends from Puerto Magno to Los Cabells.

5. QUARTON DE LOS SALINAS.

It contains a tract of two leagues, with 900 inhabitants, dispersed, like the preceding, in detached habitations. The coast extends from Puerto de Purroig to the harbour of the capital.

CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCTIONS.

The climate is extremely mild and salubrious; only the hot winds of Africa are sometimes oppressive. In winter the thermometer stands at between 58° and 68°, and in summer between

78° and 88°, when the heat, however, is moderated by cooling breezes. No venomous or predacious animal is to be found in the whole island.

Iviça is very mountainous. All these eminences are covered with thick woods, chiefly of pine-trees. The soil is adapted to the cultivation of all the productions of the south of Spain, and especially of olives. It is therefore to be regretted, that the inhabitants confine their attention to the following articles :

Wheat, of which they raise great quantities—wine, which is highly esteemed; considerable quantities of it are taken off by the ships that come for cargoes of salt—oil, equal to the best Spanish—southern fruits, especially almonds, figs, and water-melons—some hemp and flax. To this account must be added, the breeding of a few cattle, and the produce of the fisheries.

Iviça derives the greatest profits from the exportation of its sea-salt, which is made in the usual manner, in 13 salt-pits. It is calculated that the quantity annually obtained amounts, upon an average, to twenty or twenty-five thousand *modins**, each of which is exported at the rate of 60 reals or three piastres. From each

* A *modin* is 24 *fanegas*, or 600 pounds.

modin the king receives 48 reals, leaving only twelve for the share of the proprietors.

There are in Iviça two kinds of salt, white and red. The first is chiefly taken off by ships from the Levant, and the other by those from the north of Europe. Both sorts are in fact of the same quality, the colour proceeding only from the soil at the bottom of the salt-pit. Accordingly, when there is a scarcity of red salt, the people mix a little red earth with the white, and pass it off without difficulty for the former. It is calculated that one hundred ships come in a year to Iviça for cargoes of salt.

INHABITANTS.

The inhabitants of Iviça are in general of the middle size, of a lemon-yellow complexion, and meagre, but very ingenious, brave, and admirably adapted to the naval service. Their language is a compound of the Valencian, Catalan, and Mallorcan *patois*, intermixed with many corrupt Arabic words: their manners are unpolished, and their disposition has nothing of the amiable character which distinguishes the Valencians.

Their bravery and activity as sailors are equalled only by their supineness and indolence in respect to agriculture and manufactures.

They cultivate scarcely one third of their lands, and never plough their fields more than once for one crop. Their olive-trees are left to themselves, and for this reason scarcely reach the age of forty years; great waste is made of their oil by bad management, and they lose above two fifths of it by their stupid method of pressing the olives.

The *almadrabas* for the tunny fishery formerly afforded employment to a number of the inhabitants; but as none of those who are now living are acquainted with the mode of conducting that operation, and, what is still worse, will not take the pains to learn it of the Valencians, this important branch of industry is totally neglected.

Their manufactures of earthen-ware, for which, on account of the superior quality of the clay, there was formerly a great demand, are in the same predicament. The workmen have died away, the trade is become extinct, and the inhabitants are now obliged to purchase all their earthen utensils of the Mallorcans.

The same indifference is manifested by them towards every new branch of industry, which it is attempted to introduce among them. This was the case, for example, with respect to the culture of silk, in which one of the last governors was at great pains to instruct them. Not-

withstanding the great advantages which they might derive from it, they still remain in their former inactivity.

They have a decided aversion for improvements in general. Thus an industrious Valencian having once attempted to cultivate his land according to his own method, they compelled him with the most violent menaces to desist. His life was not safe till he adopted their system.

It cannot then appear surprising, that Iviça should have scarcely any active commerce. All that the inhabitants export in their xebecs is a small quantity of ship-timber to Carthagena and Minorca, and a few cargoes of almonds and water-melons to the coasts.

And yet what a flourishing island might this be, situated as it is half way between two so contiguous divisions of the globe ! Before the discovery of the West Indies, it was a mart for the riches of the East. What a flourishing island might this be, which produces all the necessaries of life in such abundance, the soil of which is adapted to innumerable productions, and which comprizes within itself a thousand sources of industry and commerce ! What a flourishing island might not Iviça be rendered, if, instead of this wretched race of sailors, it were peopled with the thousands of industrious

colonists who are annually swallowed up by the barren wastes of North America !

FORMENTERA.

Situated in $7^{\circ} 38' 13''$ east longitude from Cadiz, and $38^{\circ} 37' 5''$ north latitude, two leagues from Iviça. The greatest length is three leagues, the greatest breadth two ; but in the narrowest part, it is scarcely three gun-shots across. It has a population of 1,200 persons, who all live dispersed in detached *caserias*. The principal production is wheat, from which the island has received its name.

All the preceding observations on the climate, soil, agriculture, and inhabitants of Iviça, are applicable to this island. We have only to add, that the natives both of Iviça and Formentera had rendered themselves so formidable to the Algerine corsairs, that their coasts had not been molested by them for more than fifty years before the conclusion of the peace of 1785.

Government has very recently turned its attention to the improvement of Iviça and Formentera, and granted permission for the free exportation of all their productions, except salt ; but as long as hands, and a better mode

of training them are wanting, all these measures will be without effect.

LA CONEJERA.

Some wood, otherwise waste and uninhabited.

GENERAL SURVEY OF IVICA & FORMENTERA.

Population	14,000 souls.
Superficial contents....	296 geog. squ. miles.
Number of inhabitants to each square mile.	59
Superior to the number of inches in a square mile in Spain	12
Inferior to the popula- tion of France in a square mile.....	43
Inferior to that of Eng- land in the same space.....	20

APPENDIX.

No. IV.

THE MOORS IN SPAIN.*

I. HISTORICAL EPOCHS.

1. The origin of these wandering African hordes is uncertain. Their history is lost in that of the north of Africa under the Carthaginians, the Romans, &c. It does not begin to be of any interest till subsequent to the mixture of the Moors with the Arabs, in the middle of the seventh century.

2. First conquest of the Moors in Spain, under their valiant leaders, Musa and Tarif (in the year 714). End of the monarchy of the West Goths. The whole of the south of Spain, and even part of Castile, is soon reduced under the dominion of the Moors.

* In this work the author has so frequently had occasion to mention the ancient Moors, that he thinks this article will prove not unacceptable to many of his readers.

3. The conquered provinces are governed by viceroys in the name of the Arabian Chalifs ; but on the usurpation of the throne by the Abbassides (752), the Moors invite Abdolrahman, the last of the Ommiades, to Spain, and found the independent Chalifat of Cordova (759).

4. For nearly three centuries the history of this chalifat exhibits nothing but a picture of incessant wars and anarchical atrocities. At length the governors of the principal provinces make themselves independent (1038) and erect a number of kingdoms, the chief of which are those of Toledo, Saragossa, Seville, and Valencia.

5. Meanwhile the two Christian kingdoms, formed immediately after the conquest in the north-eastern and north western part of Spain, muster strength sufficient to attack the divided portions of this once formidable whole. The kingdom of Toledo is already recovered from the Moors, and each of the others is threatened with a similar fate (1082).

6. To check this progress of the Christian arms, the hard-pressed Moors summon from Africa, to their aid, a savage Arab tribe, known by the appellation of Morabethuns. The latter assist them to gain the important victory of Zelaka, near Badajoz (1087), but immediately usurp the sovereignty of the country.

7. Continual wars are waged by the Moors and Christians with various success, till at length fortune inclines to the side of the latter. The Moors lose Saragossa (1118), Cordova (1146), Almeria and Lisbon (1147), and invite from Africa, to their assistance, a second savage horde of Arabs, the Almohades (1211).

8. Signal victory gained by the Christian powers near Toleza, in the Sierra Morena (July the 16th, 1212), which from that period gives them a decisive preponderance. The Moors lose one province after another; Merida, in 1229; Valencia, in 1238, &c.

9. Mohamed Alhaman undertakes the restoration of Moorish greatness. He founds the kingdom of Granada (1236), which he designs for a new focus of Moorish power; but, as most of the other petty regents refuse to acknowledge his authority, as he has internal and external enemies continually to contend with, he is not only obliged to cede Jaen to Ferdinand III. of Castile; but to do homage to that monarch as lord paramount (1245). At the same time Estremadura, Murcia, and Seville are conquered by the Christians.

10. The contest between the two parties continues without intermission for two centuries and a half; but the Moorish power gradually declines. At length in 1492, the grand object

of a conflict of four centuries is accomplished. Granada, the last asylum of the Moors, is taken, and thus terminates the Moorish dominion after an existence of seven hundred years.

11. Grand problem to convert these former foes into peaceable subjects. At first the government seems disposed to listen to the suggestions of enlightened policy, for the Moors are treated with mildness, and are allowed the free exercise of their religion. But fanaticism soon gains the ascendancy, and the government introduces a system of religious oppression, which is mitigated only in the provinces of the crown of Arragon, in consequence of the wise remonstrances of the states (1499).

12. The inevitable consequences of these rigorous measures are insurrections in every quarter, and a great effusion of blood. Instead of reverting to milder methods, edicts still more severe are enacted (1568), and on both sides fanaticism is manifested in all its deformity.

13. At length, in 1609, the Spanish clergy obtain of the imbecile Philip III. an order for the total expulsion of the Moors. It is first carried into execution in Valencia; and Spain, to the extreme injury of her agriculture and manufactures, sustains a loss of 600,000 of her most industrious inhabitants, whose only crime consisted in adhering to a different

religious worship, and speaking a different language.

14. Here ends the history of the Moors in Spain, who, dispersed along the northern coasts of Africa, have ever since remained the most inveterate enemies of the Spaniards.

II. HISTORICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The annals of the Moors exhibit one of the most extraordinary historical anomalies; for amidst the horrors of anarchy, amidst the devastations of incessant wars, they display a luxury, and a progress in the arts and sciences, which cannot fail to excite astonishment.

The most brilliant period of the dominion of the Moors was indisputably the chalifat of Abdolrahman III. (from 912, to 961) when they were masters of Portugal, Andalusia, Granada, Murcia, Valencia, and the greatest part of New Castile. The ancient historians want words to describe the population and flourishing state of these provinces.

Thus, for example, Cordova, the capital, contained at least 400,000 inhabitants. On the banks of the Guadalquivir were scattered upwards of 12,000 villages; and every part, even the steepest mountains, exhibited an uninter-

rupted succession of the noblest plantations and the most luxuriant fields.

The revenues of the chalif were estimated at 12,045,000 golden *dinars*, upwards of five millions sterling, exclusive of the imposts that were paid in kind. To this is likewise to be added the produce of the mines of gold and silver, with the working of which the Moors were perfectly well acquainted; while the trade in the valuable productions of the country with Italy, France, and the Levant, brought prodigious sums into these provinces.

A consequence of this wealth was that excessive luxury which appears almost incredible, but is confirmed by the testimony of writers of the greatest veracity. Thus, for example, the above-mentioned Abdolrahman III. founded for his favourite female slave, in the vicinity of Cordova, a magnificent city,* containing a palace which actually resembled the work of enchantment. Every thing that the most refined voluptuousness could devise, and the most skilful architect accomplish, seemed to be combined in this fairy mansion.

The ceiling of the saloon where the chalif was accustomed to pass the evening with his favourite was composed of the most valuable

* Zehra, now entirely destroyed.

stones, enchased in gold and polished steel ; the walls of lapis lazuli, covered with golden arabesques, in stucco ; and in the middle was a basin of alabaster, from which issued a fountain of quicksilver glistening in the light of a thousand tapers.

The progress of the Moors of those times in literature and science, especially in poetry, astronomy, geometry, medicine, and chemistry, commands still greater admiration. For these they had particular schools at Cordova, from which city science diffused its beams over all the provinces of their empire, and where in the twelfth century, among others, an Abenzoar and Averroes acquired immortal renown.

This luxury, and this attachment to the sciences, continued even after the power of the Moors was diminished in the thirteenth century, and the seat of their monarchy was removed to Granada. This is attested by the ruins of the splendid palace, so celebrated under the name of Alhambra, and the numerous Arabic manuscripts of this period which are preserved in the library of the Escorial.

The palace of Alhambra was situated on a delightful eminence, which overlooked Granada and all the beautiful circumjacent country. With whatever irregularity and want of taste the external parts were put together, the interior

displayed such magnificence, such voluptuousness, and such refinement, as even to eclipse the palace of Zehra.

Whoever wishes to appreciate the luxury of the Moorish monarchs, the peculiar characteristics of Moorish architecture, and the talents of Moorish artists, let him examine the ruins of this palace, where every thing announces the highest refinement in the enjoyments of sense, and the utmost exertions of abilities in the artist.

The same observations are applicable to the neighbouring palace called El Generalif, and its gardens, the favourite spring residence of the Moorish sovereigns.

What charming terraces, raised in the manner of an amphitheatre one above the other ! What enchanting thickets of roses and jasmine !

The ancient cypresses and orange-trees, in whose shade walked the Moorish monarchs, are still standing. The marble basins, surrounded with groves of myrtle, which served the women of their harem to bathe in, are yet to be seen. In each succeeding century, however, their decay becomes more visible, and in the course of the next thousand years perhaps not a vestige of these magnificent ruins will remain.

The relics of Moorish literature, the remains of their romantic poetry, will survive to a later period in Spain. Great is the number of

manuscripts on geographical, astronomical, and medical subjects, in which grand ideas and important truths are intermingled with the errors and the reveries of early times. Still greater is the abundance of Moorish poems, especially ballads, with imitations or translations of which the literature of Spain is enriched. Subjoined is a specimen, together with Florian's translation, which, though very free, however expresses the sense.

GANZUL, Y ZELINDA.

Romance Moro.

1.

En el tiempo que Zelinda,
cerró ayrada la ventana
á la disculpa, á los zelos,
que el Moro Ganzul le daba ;
confusa y arrepentida,
de haberse fingido ayrada,
por verle y desagraviarle,
el corazon se le abraza ;
que en el villano de amor,
es muy cierta la mudanza etc.

2.

Y como supo, que el Moro
rompió furioso la lanza, etc.
y que la librea verde,
Avia trocado en leonada ;
Sacó luego una marlota,
de tafetan roxo y plata,
un bizarro capellar
de tela de oro morada etc.

GANZUL ET ZELINDE.

Romance Maure.

1.

Dans un transport de jalousie,
Zelinde avoit banni l'amant,
qui la chérit plus que sa vie,
et fut loin d'elle en gémissant,
Bientôt Zelinde, mieux instruite,
se reproche sa cruauté ;
comme un enfant l'amour s'irrite,
elle pleure de s'être irrité.

2.

On vient lui dire que le Maure,
en proie á ses vives douleurs,
en quittant l'objet qu'il adore,
a changé ses tendres couleurs ;
le verd, emblème d'espérance,
a fait place au triste souci,
un crêpe est au fer de sa lance,
son bras porte un écu noirci.

3.

Con un bonete, cubierto
de zaphires y esmeraldas,
que publican zelos muertos,
y vivas las esperanzas,
con una nevada toca,
Que el color de la veleta,
tambien publica bonanza. etc.

4.

Informandose primero,
adonde Ganzul estaba ;
á una casa de placer
apuella tarde le llama ;
y diziendole a Ganzul,
que Zelinda le aguardava
al page le preguntó,
tres veces, si se burlava etc.

5.

Viendose Moro con ella,
a penas los ojos alza.
Zelinda le asió la mano,
un poco roxa y turbada ;
Y al fin de infinitas queexas,
que en talos pasos se pasan;
vistió se las ricas presas,
con las manos de su dama etc.

3.

Zelinde aussitot est partie,
Lui portant d'autres ornemens,
où le bleu de la jalousie
se mêle au pourpre des amans ;
le blanc, symbole d'innocence,
se distingue à chaque ruban ;
le violet de la constance
brille sur le riche turban.

4.

En arrivant á la retraite
où Ganzul attend son destin,
Zelinde, craintive, inquiete,
se repose sous un jasmin ;
elle envoie un fidèle page,
chercher le malheureux amant ;
Ganzul croit à peine au message,
l'infortune rend méfiant.

5.

Il vole, il revoit son amante ;
L'amour, l'espoir trouble ses sens ;
Zelinde, interdite et tremblante,
rougit en offrant ses présens.
Tous deux pleurent dans le silence.
mais leur regard plein de douleur,
rappelle et pardonne l'offense,
dont a gémi leur tendre cœur.

The subject of this ballad leads us to the character of the Moors, which, from that extraordinary mixture of gallantry and ferocity, of barbarity and politeness, is highly deserving of the attention of the philosopher.

Who, for instance, would suppose, that amidst incessant wars, amidst the horrors of endless

3

anarchy, the government of the Moors was one of the mildest that any conquered nation has a right to expect ;* who, moreover, would imagine that so much political importance, and so long a political duration, could possibly be attained with such a wretched organization of the state, and the total want of laws ?

The monarchy of the Moors in Spain is destroyed, but the traces of their conquest are indelibly impressed upon the Spanish character. A thousand customs and habits remind us of the ancient rulers of the country, and all the progressive advances of the Spaniards seem to have been but deviations from that oriental spirit.

* The conquered provinces were suffered to retain their rights, their language, and their religion. No traces of intolerance marked their course, no oppressive feudal system was established, nor were even the former imposts increased.

THE END.

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